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Release

January 3, 1997

No. 1

CANADA RESPONDS TO U.S. PRESIDENT'S RENEWAL OF HELMS-BURTON WAIVER

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and International Trade Minister Art Eggleton today noted U.S. President Bill Clinton's decision to renew the six-month waiver that suspends the right of U.S. companies to sue under the Helms-Burton Act. Under the Act, six months is the longest period for which the President can renew the suspension.

"Although this announcement is helpful in the short term, the Government of Canada is concerned about the continued application of extraterritorial measures," said Mr. Axworthy. "We are hopeful that our continued opposition to the Act will eventually result in the repeal of the Helms-Burton legislation."

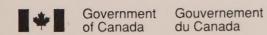
"The President's decision postpones but does not eliminate the threat to Canadian companies under Title III," said Mr. Eggleton. "The Act still creates long-term uncertainty, however, and we are disappointed. We are also very concerned about other provisions within it, such as continuing entry restrictions."

Under the Helms-Burton Act, U.S. nationals may launch lawsuits in U.S. courts against Canadian and other foreign firms allegedly "trafficking" in property expropriated from these American citizens. President Clinton announced on July 16, 1996, that this right to sue would be suspended for a six-month period. Today's decision renews that suspension until August 1, 1997.

The U.S. law also provides for restrictions on temporary entry into the United States of corporate officers of these companies if they are determined to be "trafficking" in expropriated property.

As part of a broad campaign to oppose Helms-Burton, the Canadian government amended the Foreign Extraterritorial Measures Act (FEMA). These strong and effective changes to FEMA, which became law on January 1, 1997, will protect Canadian companies from unacceptable foreign laws by:

 ensuring that judgments handed down under Helms-Burton will not be enforced or recognized in Canada;





- permitting Canadians to recover in Canadian courts any amounts awarded under Helms-Burton, along with their court costs and consequent damages — a measure known as "clawback";
- giving the Attorney General of Canada the authority to amend a schedule listing objectionable foreign legislation that violates international law.

In November 1996, Canada announced that it would participate as a third party in the European Union's challenge of the Helms-Burton legislation at the World Trade Organization.

Canada has also held consultations with the United States under the North American Free Trade Agreement and has pursued the issue in international organizations such as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and the Organization of American States.

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EA News Release

January 3, 1997

No. 2

AXWORTHY URGES PRESIDENT MILOSEVIC TO RESPECT ALL NOVEMBER 17 ELECTION RESULTS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today urged President Milosevic to respect all of the results of the November 17 elections or risk further isolation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) by the international community. The Minister was commenting on the reply given today by the government of the FRY, to the December 27 report made by Felipe Gonzalez, the Personal Representative of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Chairman-in-office.

The Minister stated that, "Canada fully supports the Gonzalez report, which clearly recommends that all of the results of the November 17 elections be respected by the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The response by the FRY Foreign Minister today, confirming some victories for the opposition, still does not fully acknowledge all of the results of the November 17 elections." Canada discussed this issue with its OSCE partners at a special meeting today in Vienna. Canada is in full agreement with the conclusions of the OSCE Chairman-in-office, which call for prompt and complete implementation of the recommendations of the Gonzalez report.

Minister Axworthy took note of the FRY government's desire to integrate with the international community. At the same time, he reminded President Milosevic that this cannot be done until the FRY demonstrates its commitment to international standards of democracy and human rights. "President Milosevic should respect the voices of his own citizens, who are in their sixth week of protest against his decision to annul some of the November 17 election results," said Mr. Axworthy. Canada's ambassador to Belgrade will deliver the same message to the government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

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January 13, 1997

No. 4

AXWORTHY INAUGURATES FIRST CANADIAN OFFICE IN PUNJAB

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy offically inaugurated the new Canadian office at a public ceremony in Chandigarh, the capital of the state of Punjab. He was joined by Indian External Affairs Minister Inder Kumar Gujral. Also present were Canadian members of Parliament and a Canadian business and community delegation.

"This new Canadian presence in Punjab reflects the normalization of conditions in Punjab and the progressive nature of the India-Canada relationship," said Mr. Axworthy. "It will help strengthen ties between the people of Punjab and the many Indo-Canadians who trace their origins to this region. This is also welcome news for Canadian companies seeking trade and investment opportunities in India's rapidly growing economy."

The new office will serve as a local centre for individuals to make inquiries about trade and will facilitiate contacts for Canadian business people visiting the region. It responds to the need to better serve the large number of Indian visitors and immigrants to Canada from Punjab. Approximately 40 per cent of the current immigration workload involves persons of Punjabi origin. An important function of the office's services to the Indian public involves the facilitation of visa applications and trade inquiries, complementing the visa assessment functions of the High Commission in New Delhi. The processing and issuance of visas, as well as visa interviews will continue to be conducted in New Delhi.

Mr. Axworthy initiated discussions with Indian External Affairs Minister Gujral on establishing a Canadian office in Chandigarh in July 1996. During his visit to Canada in September 1996, Mr. Gujral formally agreed to the opening of this office. The office will begin operations on April 1, 1997, and will be staffed by seven local residents.

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ER MEUS Release

January 14, 1997

No. 7

AXWORTHY WELCOMES HEBRON AGREEMENT

Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy welcomed the agreement reached today between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization on the redeployment of Israeli troops from the West Bank town of Hebron.

"I commend both parties in reaching this agreement, which is an important step in restoring the momentum of the Peace Process," said Mr. Axworthy. He also noted the significance of the note to the record reached on non-Hebron issues. Reiterating Canada's strong and active support for the Peace Process, Mr. Axworthy said, "We hope these agreements will lead to a full implementation of the Interim Agreements. Canada reaffirms its continued support for the Peace Process."

Mr. Axworthy praised the efforts of Egypt, Jordan and the United States in mediating the Hebron agreement. "The leadership and efforts of these countries have once again been invaluable in advancing the cause of peace," said Mr. Axworthy.

Under the terms of the second Interim Agreement signed in September 1995, Hebron is the last major Palestinian population centre in the West Bank to be turned over to Palestinian civilian administration.

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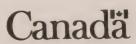
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Government Gouvernement of Canada du Canada







January 16, 1997

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT SATISFIED WITH FINDINGS OF INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL EXPERT PANEL ON **ASRESTOS RISK ASSESSMENT**

International Trade Minister Art Eggleton and Minister of Natural Resources Anne McLellan today expressed their satisfaction with the findings of an independent panel of international scientists who concluded that France's Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale (INSERM) overestimated the real threat of asbestos to the French population.

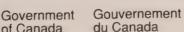
This expert panel, gathering international and independent scientists from France, the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada, was convened by the Royal Society of Canada. The panel was mandated to conduct a study following a request by the Canadian government for an independent judgment on the quality of the risk assessment of asbestos contained in the INSERM report, with respect to the existing body of scientific knowledge on asbestos. The French government banned the import, manufacture and use of most asbestos products, beginning January 1, 1997, based on the evaluation in the INSERM report.

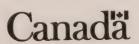
"Because of the potential impact of France's decision on our export markets, the Canadian government has been particularly active and has taken a series of initiatives to protect the asbestos industry and the thousands of jobs associated with it, " "Federal initiatives include written said Mr. Eggleton. representations from Prime Minister Jean Chrétien to his French counterpart and a delegation of Canadian experts to Paris last October. We are currently considering a series of measures, including an intervention to the World Trade Organization. Canadian government is also working very closely with the Government of Quebec and the private sector."

The Expert Panel believes that INSERM's estimates of risks associated with chrysotile - extracted from the Canadian mines -The Royal Society Report emphasizes that the assumed exposure on which the number of deaths is predicted is



of Canada





hypothetical and is higher than levels that have typically been measured in buildings containing asbestos materials.

"We continue to maintain that the controlled use of asbestos is safe," said Minister McLellan. "The controlled-use policy, which we have advocated since the late 1970s, is the most rational approach in dealing with substances like chrysotile asbestos."

The Expert Panel report was reviewed by five independent experts, ensuring the document's objectivity.

The Royal Society of Canada was founded in 1882 and it currently consists of 1450 Fellows — men and women from all parts of the country, representing all disciplines — selected by their peers for outstanding contributions to scholarly, scientific or artistic fields.

Initially modelled after the Royal Society of London and the Institut de France, the Royal Society differs from most learned and scientific societies in that it encompasses a broad range of disciplines: natural and applied sciences, medicine, social sciences and humanities.

One of the main activities of the Society consists in undertaking studies or projects in which the Society provides leadership or a knowledge base with respect to intellectual, scientific or policy issues. Its role also includes advising the government and others, and, in this regard, the Society is the agency chosen by the government to nominate Canadians for selection in the North American Free Trade Agreement dispute mechanism.

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

Copies of the report can be obtained from the Royal Society of Canada. Tel.: (613) 991-6999 Fax: (613) 991-6996.



CAS DEUS RELEASE

January 17, 1997

No. 9

AXWORTHY AND STEWART TO VISIT CUBA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that he and Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) Christine Stewart will visit Cuba on January 21 and 22 to discuss a number of bilateral and multilateral issues.

"I welcome this opportunity to review our relations and exchange views on a broad range of issues," said Mr. Axworthy. "Canada has maintained a long-standing dialogue with Cuba that includes questions of human rights, good governance, trade and economic and legal reform. While Canada and Cuba may not agree on all issues, we have chosen to discuss our difference of views in a context of engagement and dialogue, and not one of confrontation and isolation. Canada believes it is important to raise and discuss these views at an appropriate political level."

Since 1945, Canada has pursued its policy of dialogue with Cuba through successive governments and has maintained uninterrupted diplomatic relations with Cuba. This visit by Mr. Axworthy is the first by a Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister since 1959. Mrs. Stewart was in Cuba once before, in June 1994. The last Canadian Head of Government to go to Cuba was then Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau in 1976.

This trip by Mr. Axworthy and Mrs. Stewart follows a visit to Canada by Dr. Carlos Lage Dávila, the Vice President of the Cuban Council State, in October 1996.

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January 28, 1997

No. 10

CANADA TO SEND MILITARY OBSERVERS TO GUATEMALA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Minister of National Defence Douglas Young today announced that Canada will deploy up to 15 military observers to a United Nations mission in Guatemala. The three-month mission was authorized by the UN Security Council on January 20, with a mandate to support the verification of the Guatemalan Peace Accords that were signed in Guatemala City on December 29, bringing to an end 35 years of civil conflict.

"We hope that the parties to the conflict will be committed to cooperating fully with the verification of the cease-fire and the other steps that will be necessary to further the peace process," said Mr. Axworthy. "Canada not only supports but is ready to assist Guatemala in the peacebuilding process with the deployment of Canadian military observers, as part of the overall United Nations effort. Canada's participation is an important step in this process."

Fifteen Spanish-speaking Canadian Forces personnel will participate in the mission. They will verify the cease-fire, the separation of combatant forces, and the disarming and demobilization of the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) forces.

"Once again, Canadians are responding to a call from the international community to contribute to a more stable and secure world," said Minister Young. "The expertise of the Canadian Forces observers will ensure that our contribution brings a tangible benefit to the people of Guatemala."

The Canadian observers will be part of a 155-person military component that will be attached to the existing United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA). Canadian personnel will be employed both within the mission headquarters and at the eight disarmament centres set up throughout the country.

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January 29, 1997



No. 12

AXWORTHY TO OPEN NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy will open the one-day Canadian Conference on Humanitarian Demining and Landmine Victim Assistance in Winnipeg on January 31. This is the first national meeting to address these related issues and is one in a series of national and international meetings following on the International Strategy Conference held in Ottawa in October 1996, which dealt with the ban, AP mine clearance and victim assistance as integrated issues.

"Canada's hosting of the Ottawa Conference last October placed us at the forefront of international efforts to ban anti-personnel (AP) mines," said Mr. Axworthy. "The time is right for us to focus on two important aspects of the AP mine issue: demining and rehabilitation assistance to AP mine victims. We need to review our national expertise in these areas as part of our wider efforts to deal with the appalling impact of AP mines on thousands of lives each year," he added.

The Conference is expected to attract more than 120 participants, including representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as Canadian disability advocacy groups and Canadian universities with international programs for disabled rehabilitation. Companies that provide goods or services related to demining will also be represented.

Mines Action Canada, a coalition representing 37 international development, peace, public health, human rights and faith NGOs, is the major non-governmental participant at the Winnipeg Conference.

The Winnipeg Conference's objectives are to generate increased Canadian private sector and NGO interest, capacity and involvement in AP mine issues and to assist the government in preparing for the March 1997 Tokyo Conference, which will also deal with demining and victim assistance. The Conference is also designed to contribute to the increased momentum of the "Ottawa Process," whose objective is to conclude a treaty banning AP mines and have it signed in Canada in December 1997. Other



upcoming meetings include a treaty-drafting meeting next month in Vienna and the Second International Strategy Conference in Brussels in June.

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January 29, 1997

No. 13

EGGLETON TO MEET BUSINESS, POLITICAL LEADERS IN GERMANY AND SWITZERLAND

Minister for International Trade Art Eggleton will meet with German Economics Minister Gunter Rexrodt and German business leaders in Bonn and attend the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, January 29-February 2.

"There is great potential for increased German investment in Canada," said Mr. Eggleton today. "And, as the world's third-largest economy, Germany offers a rich export market for Canadian products. More business with Germany means more jobs for Canadians."

While in Germany, Mr. Eggleton will meet Mr. Rexrodt in Bonn to discuss bilateral and multilateral trade and investment matters. He will also discuss the advantages of investing and doing business with Canada with representatives of the German Chambers of Industry and Commerce.

Mr. Eggleton, along with Industry Minister John Manley, will participate in sessions organized by the prestigious World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos. The two ministers will take part in a special WEF lunch featuring Canada and in other forum panels. The WEF conference includes top business executives and political leaders from around the world.

"This is an ideal opportunity to exchange ideas and information with key decision makers," Mr. Eggleton said.

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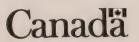
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January 30, 1997 No. 14

AXWORTHY APPOINTS LEONARD LEGAULT TO INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced the appointment of Leonard Legault as Commissioner of the Canadian Section of the International Joint Commission (IJC). By agreement among the Canadian Commissioners, Mr. Legault will chair the Canadian Section, and co-chair the Commission as a whole with his U.S. counterpart Thomas Baldini. His appointment will take effect March 10, 1997.

"The Government is determined to support and strengthen the IJC. This appointment confirms this commitment, and will set a firm foundation for the IJC as it moves toward the challenges of the next century," said Mr. Axworthy. "The IJC is an important institution for managing the transboundary environmental relationship between Canada and the United States. Mr. Legault will bring a wealth of insight and experience to the IJC in precisely those areas that are the responsibility of the Commission."

Mr. Legault has served for 35 years in Canada's diplomatic service. He joins the IJC from his post at the Vatican as Canada's Ambassador to the Holy See. He has extensive experience in Canada-U.S. relations and as an international jurist.

The IJC is a binational Canada-United States organization established by the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909. Canada and the United States each appoint three Commissioners. The IJC has a long and distinguished record of helping to resolve transboundary water and air management and quality issues, and has served the interests of citizens well on both sides of the border.

The IJC has authority to issue Orders of Approval for the use, diversion or obstruction of waters that flow along the boundary between Canada and the United States and on certain rivers crossing the boundary, in cases where the natural water levels or flows on the neighbouring side may be affected. The IJC has been closely involved in key bilateral environmental questions, such as the quality of water in the Great Lakes. This year Canada and



the United States, along with the IJC, will celebrate the 25th year of the Water Quality Agreement.

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A brief biographical note on Mr. Legault is attached.

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Biographical Note

LEONARD LEGAULT

Leonard Legault, QC, is a career diplomat. Among other assignments, he has served as Senior Assistant Deputy Minister (United States) with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (1990-93) and as Deputy Head of Mission and Minister at the Canadian Embassy in Washington (1986-1990).

Mr. Legault has been a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration and has been deeply involved in international resource and fisheries management. Between 1982 and 1984 he served as Ambassador and Agent for Canada in the Gulf of Maine case before the International Court of Justice. From 1995 to the present, he has served as Canada's Ambassador and Head of the Canadian Delegation to the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, a post that has entailed close consultations between government and non-governmental organizations.

Mr. Legault is an Officer of the Order of Canada. He is originally from Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan.





January 30, 1997 Release No. 15

AXWORTHY TO VISIT UNITED NATIONS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy will meet with the new United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, on Tuesday, February 4, during a one-day visit to New York.

"Canada has had very positive dealings with Mr. Annan in his previous position as UN Undersecretary-General for Peacekeeping. We are pleased to have the opportunity to work with him on the wider challenges facing the organization in the months and years to come, particularly in the area of UN renewal," said Mr. Axworthy.

Minister Axworthy's discussion with the Secretary-General is expected to focus on Canada's foreign policy priorities relevant to the UN. These include the preparation for December 1997 of a treaty banning anti-personnel mines; peacekeeping and peacebuilding; advancing the UN's rapid reaction capability; international security — particularly the situation in Haiti, Guatemala and the Great Lakes region of Central Africa; and children's rights.

"Canadians look forward to continuing their long-standing, strong support for the Secretary-General's efforts on behalf of international peace and security, as well as social, economic and cultural development," added the Minister.

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January 31, 1997 No. 16

MONTREAL MP ATTENDS OPENING OF YEAR-LONG CULTURAL FESTIVAL IN GREECE

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that Eleni Bakopanos, Member of Parliament for Saint-Denis, is representing Canada at the opening ceremonies (January 30 to February 1) of the year-long cultural festival in Thessaloniki, Greece.

Thessaloniki has been designated Europe's Cultural Capital for 1997, a concept that was initiated 20 year ago by Melina Mercouri, former actress and Greek Minister of Culture.

"Canada's presence as the second-largest foreign participant in the festival is an expression of the importance of culture as the third pillar of Canadian foreign policy," said Mr. Axworthy.
"Our participation will give impetus to Canada/Greece bilateral relations and promote closer ties between our two countries."

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, in cooperation with the private sector, is providing financial assistance to a number of Canadian artists and cultural organizations to participate in the Thessaloniki Festival, including Nexus — a percussion ensemble from Toronto, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and Montreal's LaLaLa Human Steps dance company.

- 30 -

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February 3, 1997

No. 17

CANADA CONDEMNS ASSASSINATION OF FATHER PINARD

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today strongly condemned the assassination of Father Guy Pinard, of Shawinigan, a White Father missionary in Africa. Father Pinard was killed yesterday in Kampanga, while celebrating the mass in this village near Ruhengeri, northeast of Rwanda.

"Canada deplores such gratuitous violence and, in the name of the Canadian government, I would like to express our deepest sympathy to the relatives and numerous friends of Father Pinard," said Mr. Axworthy. "We are in contact with Rwandan government authorities, who have promised a full investigation of the circumstances surrounding this tragedy. The Government of Canada expects an investigation that will lead to the prosecution of the quilty party."

The assassination of Father Pinard comes two weeks after three Spanish health aid workers were killed and an American colleague wounded in an attack on their compound in Ruhengeri.

"The fight against impunity is essential to national reconciliation and part of Canada's continuing support for the long and difficult process of restoring peace and justice in Rwanda, " added Mr. Axworthy.

- 30 -

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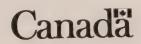
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February 3, 1997

No.18

CANADA AND CROATIA SIGN FOREIGN INVESTMENT PROMOTION AND PROTECTION AGREEMENT

Canada's Minister for International Co-operation and Minister Responsible for la Francophonie, Don Boudria, and Croatia's Minister of Development and Reconstruction, Dr. Jure Radic, today signed a Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPA) in Ottawa.

"The signing of this agreement illustrates the degree of Canada's commitment to expanding economic ties with Croatia," noted Mr. Boudria. "It confirms Canada's support for and co-operation with Croatia in its reconstruction by fostering increased bilateral investment flows."

The agreement is expected to reduce risk for Canadian companies investing in Croatia. A FIPA is designed to promote and protect foreign investment through legally binding rights and obligations. This particular FIPA is based on Canada's new model, which incorporates key provisions from the North American Free Trade Agreement's investment chapter. Agreements under the new model have also been signed with Egypt, Thailand, Ukraine, Latvia, Trinadad and Tobago, the Philippines, South Africa, Romania, Ecuador, Barbados, Panama and Venezuela.

In 1996, Canadian firms were involved in negotiations for more than US\$400 million worth of projects in Croatia in: forestry, infrastructure, power, sanitation, finance, public sector management and structural adjustment.

- 30 -

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February 4, 1997 No. 19

SECRETARY-GENERAL, COUNCIL OF EUROPE, TO VISIT CANADA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that Mr. Daniel Tarschys, Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, will pay an official visit to Canada from February 5 to 8 at the invitation of Mr. Axworthy.

"Our relations with the Council of Europe are excellent, and the observer status that we have recently obtained reinforces our partnership in areas of common interest, including human rights, co-operation with Central and Eastern Europe, democratization and peace in the former Yugoslavia," said Mr. Axworthy. "This visit will also help strengthen our transatlantic link with Europe."

In Ottawa, Mr. Tarschys will meet with Minister Axworthy, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Canadian Heritage Sheila Copps and Minister of Justice Allan Rock to discuss matters of common interest. In Montréal the Secretary-General will meet with Canada's Intergovernmental Relations Minister, Stéphane Dion, and with representatives of the Quebec government. Mr. Tarschys will also deliver a speech at the Cercle Jean Monnet en droit européen (the Jean Monnet European Law Club).

Over the years Canada and the Council of Europe have developed close ties, especially in culture, heritage, communications, education, human rights, the media, gender equality, health and legal affairs.

"Our new observer status attests to the European countries' recognition of the substantial Canadian commitment to Europe," added Mr. Axworthy.

- 30 -

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News Release

February 5, 1997

No. 20

NEW EFFORT TO SETTLE SALMON DISPUTE ANNOUNCED

The governments of Canada and the United States have announced today that they are renewing their commitment to resolving the dispute under the Pacific Salmon Treaty. The two governments have agreed on a process of government-to-government negotiations that includes direct participation by stakeholders from relevant regions.

Two groups, representing northern and southern fishery interests, will be asked to review key fisheries and make recommendations on fishing arrangements that are consistent with the Treaty principles. Their first meeting is expected next week in Portland, Oregon. The groups will report to the chief Canadian and American negotiators, Yves Fortier and Mary-Beth West. Negotiators will make a preliminary review of progress by mid-March.

The announcement follows high-level discussions between John Fraser, Canada's Ambassador for the Environment, and Eileen Claussen, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, on how to settle the dispute.

Canada and the United States have not been able to agree on the implementation of the principles of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, signed in 1985. There have been repeated attempts to reach a solution, including mediation in 1996, but without success. Last summer, the Governors of Alaska, Washington and Oregon pledged new political will and called for a new process involving the stakeholders to resolve the conflict. British Columbia Premier Glen Clark has also emphasized the importance of finding a solution without delay.

- 30 -

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Yves Fortier Canada's Chief Negotiator on Pacific Salmon (514) 847-4747

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874 C.C. (Bud) Graham
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Oceans, Vancouver
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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca



February 5, 1997 FEB 13 1997 No. 2

AXWORTHY MEETS WITH HUMAN RIGHTS NGOS OF

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy met today with representatives of Canadian Human Rights non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the course of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's annual consultations to prepare for the UN Commission on Human Rights (CHR).

This was Mr. Axworthy's second opportunity to meet with the NGOs, having done so last year prior to his addressing the CHR in Geneva in March 1996. Mr. Axworthy announced that Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) Christine Stewart would represent Canada at the CHR this year. He also announced that Mr. Ross Hynes, Minister-Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations in New York, would head Canada's delegation to the CHR which will meet in Geneva from March 10 to April 18, 1997.

The Minister reviewed Canada's vigorous participation in the last session of the Commission on Human Rights and pointed out that Canada would be taking the lead on six resolutions at the CHR this year, including those on Rwanda, violence against women and mass exoduses.

"The protection and promotion of human rights is a primary Canadian value and a key goal of our domestic and foreign policy," stated Mr. Axworthy. "In the past year, we have pursued this goal vigorously in a wide range of settings, using an expanding set of foreign policy tools. Human rights considerations inform our multilateral and our bilateral relations, and are increasingly integrated across the full range of Canadian foreign policy," he added.

In characterizing Canada's approach to human rights, the Minister described the government's policy as being one of "effective influence," based on the conviction that dialogue and engagement, rather than isolation, represent the most useful avenues for influencing governments. Where necessary and useful, Canada speaks out strongly and is prepared to act. Human security requires not only political rights but also stability, as well as economic and social rights.

Mr. Axworthy paid tribute to the NGOs, human rights workers and peacekeepers around the world who risk their lives in order to protect human rights. In the memory of the recent deaths of Father Pinard, Nancy Malloy and UN aid workers in Rwanda, the Minister committed to working with the international community to protect the safety of these many dedicated individuals around the world.



The Minister highlighted the establishment of the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development and the John Holmes fund to support discussion of foreign policy issues among Canadians. He also announced the launch of a Human Rights page on the Department's Web site, which provides information about human rights in Canadian foreign policy and about specific human rights initiatives.

The Minister detailed Canada's active engagement on a number of specific issues through our participation in several multilateral bodies, including the Organization of American States (OAS), the Commonwealth, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and NATO. He highlighted Nigeria as a particular example where Canada had taken a leading role through the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG). Frustrated at the limited progress so far, Mr. Axworthy remains committed to a multilateral approach and vigilant attention to the issue, while continuing to leave the door open for dialogue with Nigeria. He also stressed the importance of the ASEAN forum as a means of achieving progress on the human rights issues facing Burma.

The Minister further spoke of Canada's bilateral efforts to influence change in the human rights behaviour of various countries, citing China as an example where Canada has made its concerns known directly, both in terms of continued liberties in Hong Kong and in terms of women's and prisoners' rights within China. Canada has also had direct and important bilateral discussions on the subject of human rights with Mexico and Colombia and most recently with Cuba. India, Iran, Indonesia and Guatemala are other examples of countries where Canadian influence and NGO expertise are having real impact on human rights behaviour.

"Where Canada has made a niche for itself, and perhaps the most distinctive feature of our human rights policy, is in supporting change from within. We believe that the impulse towards democracy is inevitable, but at the same time we are realistic about the governments we are dealing with. We do not expect these governments to become sudden converts to the cause of democracy. But they will yield gradually — because they have no other choice — to pressure for change from within their own society," said the Minister.

On the issue of trade and human rights, Mr. Axworthy said, "The key issue here is not a crude choice between trade or human rights but rather the need for responsible trade. This requires a closer look at the specific type of economic activity involved, in terms of its social impacts. In this context we have focussed on issues such as core labour standards, child labour and military exports."

Mr. Axworthy also addressed what has become a key priority for him, the issue of children's rights. He highlighted action that Canada has taken on this front over the past year and announced that he would be participating at the Amsterdam Child Labour Conference later this month.

The Minister went on to say that, in a time of profound international change, Canada is developing new tools of foreign policy. Two examples

Mr. Axworthy identified were the Peacebuilding Initiative and the Canadian International Information Strategy (CIIS).

The Peacebuilding Initiative aims to increase Canada's capacity for rapid, co-ordinated and flexible response to intrastate conflicts. Activities under this initiative will include promoting free access to the media, providing human rights training and establishing a roster of human rights experts to assist with such projects. He announced that, in addition to the regular consultations that the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade holds with NGOs on human rights, it would also be holding consultations on peacebuilding on Friday, February 7.

He went on to speak of the potential of the CIIS to influence respect for human rights. The strategy will be a concerted effort of government and the private sector to make more effective use of modern communications technologies to achieve Canada's international objectives, including means to use information technology to present to the world Canada and Canadian values, such as respect for human rights.

Mr. Axworthy concluded by reaffirming his commitment to maintaining Canadian activism on human rights as we prepare to celebrate both the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the five-year review of the Vienna Declaration and Programme for Action in 1998, and by challenging NGOs to play a leading role in ensuring a meaningful anniversary year.

"The Universal Declaration has been a shaping force in our world for almost 50 years," he said. "Celebration of this important anniversary should be an occasion for reaffirmation and renewal. And a time for tough, concerted actions that will move the human rights agenda to the centre of a reformed and revitalized United Nations."

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The complete text of Minister Axworthy's address has also been released to media.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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News Release February 7, 1997 No.22

EGGLETON ANNOUNCES CREATION OF GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES RESPONSE TEAM (GO-TEAM)

The Honourable Art Eggleton, Minister for International Trade, is pleased to announce today the creation of the Global Opportunities Response Team (GO-Team), comprising trade commissioners to be posted for short assignments in priority markets. They will provide Canadian exporters with assistance to quickly assess and respond to emerging business opportunities in these overseas markets.

"Exports and foreign investment create jobs in Canada, making International Business Development a key component of the Government's economic agenda," said Mr. Eggleton. "I am committed to ensuring that the necessary means are available to allow Canadian firms to take full advantage of the fast-emerging trade opportunities in foreign markets. The GO-Team has been created to serve this important function."

Five additional trade commissioners have been assigned for a period of six months in each of the following countries:

- Israel and Chile to follow up on the recently concluded free trade agreements; and
- the Philippines, Thailand and Korea to maximize the benefits of the numerous opportunities generated by the recent Team Canada Mission to these countries.

A member of the GO-Team will also be assigned shortly to Brazil to assist with the preparation of a number of important trade initiatives.

"The Trade Commissioner Service (TCS) — trade officers and counsellors working at embassies abroad and at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade — has brought international business opportunities to the Canadian business community for more than 100 years," said Mr. Eggleton. "The role of the TCS is more vital than ever in a world of global markets and freer trade. In that regard, the Go-Team will offer enhanced services to Canadian companies."

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Es Mews Release

February 7, 1997

No. 23

FEB 13 1997

MINISTER AXWORTHY ANNOUNCES NEW GUIDELINES FOR THE PROMOTION OF CANADIAN CULTURE ABROAD

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced new guidelines for the Department's program in support of the international activities of Canadian performing and visual artists, writers and professionals in the field of film, television and the media arts.

"The International Cultural Relations (ICR) program is an important element of the third pillar of Canadian foreign policy and of the government's commitment to the promotion of culture. It is designed to promote Canadian values and interests abroad by showcasing the richness and diversity of Canadian culture on the international stage. It contributes to the positive image that Canada enjoys around the world, helps to build lasting and productive relations and supports the export of Canadian cultural products," said Mr. Axworthy.

With an annual budget of approximately \$4.6 million, the ICR program supports various programs and cultural activities abroad undertaken by Canadian artists and cultural organizations. Funding is provided under a number of project categories, including performance or marketing tours abroad, attendance by Canadian film-makers at international film festivals, invitations to foreign buyers and impresarios to Canadian cultural festivals, the mounting of Canadian art exhibitions abroad and familiarization visits to Canada by foreign museum directors and curators.

The new guidelines will provide greater flexibility in the ICR planning process. The program will reflect Canada's regional cultural strengths, and emphasize opportunities for Aboriginal artists and young artists to contribute to the promotion of Canada abroad. It will also provide for special high-impact projects, which may last longer than a single event. Two examples in 1997 are the year-long series of cultural activities under Canada's participation in the Cultural Capital of Europe Festival in Thessaloniki, Greece, and under the umbrella of Canada's Year of Asia Pacific (CYAP). The ICR's program under CYAP will be launched by Minister Axworthy tomorrow in Toronto.



Funding applications are assessed on their relevance to Canadian foreign policy objectives, their artistic quality and cost-effectiveness.

Increasingly, the ICR program is multiplying its impact through partnerships with the private sector, which can benefit from Canadian cultural activities abroad to support their marketing strategies.

The criteria for ICR applications under each of the project categories and artistic disciplines are posted on the Departmental website. The English version is at:

http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/english/culture/menu.htm

The French version is at:

http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/francais/culture/menu.htm

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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A's INEWS Release

February 7, 1997

No. 24

CANADA'S FIRST OFFICIAL PARTICIPATION IN MILIA

FEB 18 1997

The Honourable Art Eggleton, Minister for International Trade, today announced that Canada will participate officially for the first time in the International Publishing and New Media Market (MILIA), Europe's most important and one of the world's most prestigious new media events, in Cannes, France, from February 9 to 12.

"With the development of the information highway, the new media sector is rapidly becoming important for the Canadian economy and for job creation," said Mr. Eggleton. "Whether in wireless, cable or satellite telecommunications technologies, Canada is a technological leader in communications."

Some 500 Canadian companies are involved in the multimedia sector, about 50 of which will be exhibiting at the show. With 10 000 buyers from Europe, Asia and North America, this third edition of MILIA will provide an excellent showcase for Canadian expertise.

MILIA brings together the world's foremost professionals in entertainment, education, telecommunications, data processing, business, finance and the arts, who contribute to the development of the multimedia industry. Among them are multimedia publishers, producers, creators, distributors, copyright holders, content suppliers, artists, agents, telecommunications companies, investors and industry analysts.

Canada's participation in this event attests to its worldwide reputation for leading-edge expertise in this sector. For example, Sylvie Lalande, the Vice President of UBI (Universality Bi-directionality and Interactivity), an interactive television network, has been selected as a member of the board for the prestigious MILIA Award. In addition, Mr. Jules Morissette of the Musée de la civilisation de Québec has received an official invitation to speak at the event.

Canada's first participation in MILIA, co-sponsored by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Industry



Canada — which has produced a CD-ROM on Canadian expertise in multimedia, the Department of Canadian Heritage and Telefilm Canada, follows the recent inauguration by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien of the renovated Canadian Cultural Centre in Paris. The building houses a New Media Centre, which is available to Canadian creators, researchers, producers and disseminators of culture, as well as to communications technology industries.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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News Release

February 8, 1997

No. 25

CULTURAL PROGRAM FOR CANADA'S YEAR OF ASIA PACIFIC LAUNCHED

FEB 13 1911

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today officially launched the cultural program of Canada's Year of Asia Pacific (CYAP), at a Chinese New Year celebration in Toronto. Raymond Chan, Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) is attending a similar event in Vancouver to coincide with the launch.

The program promotes a variety of arts events to profile Canada's involvement in the Asia-Pacific community and to raise awareness of the cultural heritage of more than two million Canadians of Asia-Pacific origin. Canadian artists, organizations and ethnocultural groups will undertake a variety of activities linked to Asia-Pacific cultures.

"The CYAP cultural program will expose a wide Canadian audience to the richness and diversity of the Asia Pacific region and expand opportunities for cross-cultural exchange. With its focus this year on Asia Pacific, the new guidelines for the International Cultural Relations program, which I announced yesterday, will better reflect Canada's full regional and cultural diversity abroad," said Mr. Axworthy.

Through the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Government of Canada has designated 1997 as Canada's Year of Asia Pacific (CYAP). Trade, youth, cultural and other activities will take place across Canada throughout the year, to highlight our relationship with the Asia-Pacific region.

"Canada's Year of Asia Pacific provides an enriching opportunity to showcase some of the finest traditional and contemporary works by Canadians of Asia-Pacific origin," said Mr. Chan.

The federal government has allocated \$1.9 million to the CYAP cultural component. This sum has been built into the existing financial framework over two fiscal years. Additional funding is expected through corporate sponsorship. Applications for funding will be considered from Canadian artists and community groups in



all arts disciplines who are organizing CYAP-related events in Canada.

Harbourfront Centre, a leading multidisciplinary cultural organization, will administer the CYAP cultural program for the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT). Regional Co-ordinators heading five Regional Advisory Councils will facilitate funding requests and CYAP programming in collaboration with Canadian artists, cultural organizations and ethnocultural groups.

The Regional Co-ordinators are as follows:

Atlantic Region Quebec Ontario Prairie Provinces British Columbia	Mary Sparling Colette Tougas Andrew Lee Mary Chan	902-422-2100 514-270-4571 416-952-1937 306-791-8778
	Dorothy Lau Laura MacMaster	604-377-3192 604-521-4785

Cultural and ethnocultural organizations wishing to participate in CYAP are invited to contact the Co-ordinator for their region.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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News Release

February 10, 1997

No. 26

AXWORTHY TO VISIT MINNEAPOLIS AND CHICAGO

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy announced today that he will travel to Minneapolis and Chicago February 13-14 for meetings with foreign policy and key business groups.

"We place great importance on our relations with the United States," said Mr. Axworthy. "We work closely together in fostering prosperity, political stability and social development in this hemisphere and around the world. I am pleased to have this opportunity to share my views on our common aims."

Mr. Axworthy will speak about Canada-U.S. economic and political relations on February 13 in Minneapolis at a lunch co-sponsored by the Minnesota International Center and the Canada-Minnesota Business Council.

In Chicago on February 14, he will deliver an address on similar themes to the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations. In addition, he will meet Chicago business leaders and attend a meeting of the Midwest Forum on U.S.-Canada Relations.

During his trip, Mr. Axworthy will meet with senior business executives to discuss ways to foster trade between Canada and the U.S. midwest. As well, he will officially present the first instalment of Canada's international treaties to the Library of International Relations at the Illinois Institute of Technology's Chicago-Kent College of Law. The Library is collecting international treaties from many countries and making them available on an electronic database for interested readers around the world.

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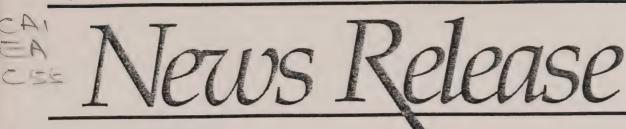
For further information, media representatives may contact:

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February 12, 1997

No. 27

Publication

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF FIRST PARTICIPATION IN MILIA BY CANADIAN COMPANIES WORTH \$8 MILLION

The Honourable Art Eggleton, Minister for International Trade, today outlined the results of the Canadian government's initial participation in the International Publishing and New Media Market (MILIA) in Cannes. The 11 companies exhibiting at the Canadian booth participated in numerous meetings that may lead to the signing of approximately 100 contracts, with an economic impact of more than \$8 million.

"This first-time success at Europe's biggest fair of its kind, and one of the world's most prestigious, has given the multimedia companies exhibiting at the Canadian booth a foothold in the lucrative markets of Europe, Asia and North America," said Mr. Eggleton.

The Minister added that the excellent performance was proof of the innovation of Canadian companies in this highly promising sector, and that he would like to see even greater Canadian participation in MILIA next year. On the strength of this year's success, most of the exhibitors indicated that they would take part in the next edition of MILIA.

Minister Eggleton also paid tribute to two young Canadians, Alain Robitaille and Robert Geoffrion, both of Montreal, whose quality work earned them a place among the 25 guests of MILIA's Young Entrepreneurs Club in an activity aimed at showcasing youthful creativity in multimedia.

Canada's level of representation ranked fifth among participants in MILIA, which attracted nearly 10 000 buyers from all over the world, making this Europe's foremost multimedia event. The 1997 edition of MILIA ended today.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

Government Gouvernement of Canada du Canada

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February 12, 1997

CANADA-CHILE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT BILL INTRODUCED IN PARLIAMENT

The Honourable Art Eggleton, Minister for International Trade, announces that legislation to implement the Canada-Chile Free Trade Agreement was introduced in Parliament today.

"Once implemented, the agreement will significantly increase Canadian access to Chilean markets and increase exports and job creation in both nations, " said Mr. Eggleton.

"This is an important deal for both nations, and gives Canadian firms privileged access to this emerging market" said the Minister. "This agreement is also an important first step in developing closer trade ties with other dynamic economies of South America, and beyond."

Canada and Chile reached agreement on the free trade accord on November 14, 1996. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Chilean President Eduardo Frei initialed the agreement during the President's visit to Canada on November 18. Minister Eggleton signed it in Chile on December 5. The agreement is slated to be implemented in June 1997.

The trade agreement's key features are as follows:

- Immediate duty-free access for 75 per cent of Canadian exports and the elimination of Chile's 11-per-cent import duty on almost all remaining industrial and resource-based goods over five years.
- Much better access for a range of agricultural goods. For example, tariffs for durum wheat, which represents 35 per cent of exports in this sector, will be eliminated immediately.
- Significant new protection for Canadian investments in Chile, including an agreement to automatically grant Canadian investors the benefits of any future liberalization, and an undertaking to negotiate a bilateral double taxation agreement.



- The creation of a Free Trade Commission and secretariat to ensure the timely and effective resolution of disputes.
- Side agreements on environment and labour, the first agreements of this nature ever signed by the Government of Chile.
- The mutual elimination of anti-dumping duties within a maximum of six years.

The agreement also exempts cultural industries and supply-managed products, fully protects social and health services, and does not affect the Auto Pact.

On December 11, 1994, the Prime Minister of Canada and the presidents of the United States, Mexico and Chile announced their intention to pursue Chile's accession to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). In January 1995, Prime Minister Chrétien led a trade delegation to Chile, the first such mission to Chile by a Canadian leader. He was accompanied by more than 250 business people.

On December 29, 1995, Canada and Chile committed to negotiate an interim free trade agreement as a bridge to Chile's accession to the NAFTA. The first round of negotiations took place in January 1996 in Santiago.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca under the News Releases heading. The Canada-Chile Free Trade Agreement is also available on the site under Trade Agreements, and on diskette through the Department's InfoCentre (944-4000).



February 14, 1997

No. 30

SECRETARY OF STATE STEWART TO ATTEND COMMONWEALTH MINISTERIAL MEETING IN LONDON

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) Christine Stewart will attend the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) meeting on February 17 and 18 in London. The meeting's purpose is to review the report of the CMAG mission to Nigeria.

"As an active and supportive member of the CMAG, Canada believes that continuing consultations among the members is a positive step toward achieving appropriate Commonwealth responses to persistent violations of the principles of the Harare Declaration on human rights and democracy, " said Mr. Axworthy.

In November 1996, some CMAG members visited Nigeria to evaluate the Commonwealth's concerns on the lack of progress in the transition to democracy and the continuing violation of human rights in that country. The report of this mission will be presented and discussed by all of the members of the CMAG in London.

"In preparation for the CMAG meeting and the review of the Nigeria mission report, Canada has consulted with a variety of individuals and organizations, " Mrs. Stewart said. "These discussions with lawyers, magistrates, journalists and trade unionists of various Commonwealth Associations have given us valuable insight into the situation in Nigeria."

Created in 1995 at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in New Zealand, following an initiative by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien to increase the Commonwealth's effectiveness in promoting democracy, CMAG includes the eight member countries -Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Jamaica, Malaysia, Ghana, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Other situations to be discussed by CMAG include those in the Gambia and Sierra Leone.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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THE Release February 17, 1997 Ro. 31

EGGLETON LEADS BUSINESS DELEGATION TO ISRAEL AND THE WEST BANK

The Honourable Art Eggleton, Minister for International Trade, will lead a delegation of approximately 50 Canadian business people to Israel and the West Bank from February 22 to 26 to pursue business opportunities.

"The Israeli market has never been more accessible for Canadian companies, in light of the recent implementation of the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement," said Mr. Eggleton. "This is an ideal time for Canadians to pursue commercial opportunities in Israel."

A private sector Business Advisory Group, composed of leading Israeli and Canadian business people will meet during the trade mission. Its objective is to develop greater awareness among the Canadian business community of the economic priorities and potential of the Israeli market. The Group will also encourage Canadian enterprises to seek out Israeli partners to respond to new business made available by the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement.

During the mission, Mr. Eggleton will chair the Joint Economic Commission and the Canada-Israel Trade Commission, which are composed of Israeli and Canadian government officials. The purpose of these commissions is to facilitate bilateral trade between Israel and Canada and to encourage economic and technical co-operation in mutually agreed sectors of importance.

Minister Eggleton will meet with the Palestinian Minister of Economics and Trade to continue dialogue on establishing a framework for free trade between Canada and the West Bank and Gaza.

"This mission is a true reflection of the Team Canada partnership between government and the private sector," said Mr. Eggleton. "Governments establish the framework for freer trade, while businesses turn new opportunities into commercial success. Canadian companies succeeding abroad ultimately means job creation back home."



Before returning to Ottawa, Mr. Eggleton will visit The Hague, Netherlands, on February 27 and 28. The purpose of his visit is to review the agenda of the Dutch Presidency of the European Union (January to June 1997) and to advance Canadian commercial and investment interests. He will meet with the Netherlands' Secretary of State for Economic Affairs and Secretary of State for Defence. Mr. Eggleton will also address the Canada-Netherlands Chamber of Commerce. The Netherlands is presiding over the Council of Europe for the first half of 1997.

- 30 -

For information on Minister Eggleton's itinerary, media representatives may contact:

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February 17, 1997 Release No. 32

AXWORTHY EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER ATTACKS ON BURMESE REFUGEES

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today expressed deep concern over the threat of further attacks by the Burmese army on refugee camps located along the Thai-Burma border and the implications for security in the region. There have been a number of attacks on refugee camps in recent weeks, forcing the relocation of refugees to escape death, conscription or forced labour.

"Of growing concern to Canada are the frequent reports of attacks on unarmed civilians in Burma and on Burmese refugees in Thailand," said Mr. Axworthy. "Canada strongly urges Burma's military regime to make a concrete commitment to democratic reform and to its own stated objective of national reconciliation."

On January 28-29, Burmese troops, together with forces of the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army, attacked three refugee camps located between Mae Sariang and Mae Sot along the Thai border. Over the last few weeks, there has been a continuing build-up of Burmese troops in the border area and an increase in the flow of refugees crossing into Thailand.

- 30 -

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News Release

February 20, 1997

No. 33

AXWORTHY TO TRAVEL TO AMSTERDAM AND BONN

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy will participate in the Amsterdam Child Labour Conference on February 26, 1997. While in Amsterdam, he will also meet with Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van Mierlo, who, as Chair of the European Union (EU) Council of Ministers, has invited Minister Axworthy and European Commission Vice President Sir Leon Brittan to a Canada-EU Ministerial Meeting. Mr. Axworthy will then visit Bonn on February 27 and 28.

The Child Labour Conference has been organized by the Government of the Netherlands in close co-operation with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and its International Program on the Elimination of Child Labour. It is part of a process of working towards the adoption, in 1999, of a new ILO Convention to eliminate the most hazardous forms of child labour.

"Forms of child labour that deprive children of their right to fully realize their potential in mental and physical development, and that expose them to hazardous and dangerous work, contravene a basic human right," said Mr. Axworthy. "That is why the Government of Canada, in close co-operation with the provinces, employers' associations and labour organizations, is actively supporting the International Labour Organization in developing a new convention on child labour."

The Conference will bring together government representatives from over 30 developed and developing countries of Asia, Africa, the Americas and Europe, as well as representatives of workers' and employers' organizations, international organizations and non-governmental organizations, working children and others concerned and affected by the issue of child labour.

In Amsterdam, Mr. Axworthy will also participate in the first Transatlantic Declaration Ministerial meeting since the December 17, 1996, signing, in Ottawa, of the Canada-European Union Political Declaration and Action Plan. This meeting will focus primarily on the implementation of the Action Plan, which calls for increased co-operation between Canada and the EU on trade, political, security and transnational issues, as well as



on furthering people-to-people links. Participants will also discuss major issues such as European security architecture, EU enlargement and the situation in Cuba, the former Yugoslavia and the African Great Lakes region, as well as the international challenge of disarmament — particularly the elimination of antipersonnel mines.

The last part of Mr. Axworthy's trip includes meetings in Bonn with German Foreign Minister Dr. Klaus Kinkel and Defence Minister Volker Rühe. The ministers will exchange information and views on a number of international issues. In addition to those discussed in Amsterdam, they will cover various NATO issues, including internal reform, as well as UN Reform and other bilateral matters.

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THE Release February 21, 1997 No. 34

NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH PRIVATE SECTOR SPONSORS CANADIAN ARTISTS AT EUROPEAN CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Eleni Bakopanos, Member of Parliament for Saint-Denis, on behalf of Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, today announced funding to support the Canadian cultural presence at the yearlong cultural festival in Thessaloniki, Greece, named the Cultural Capital of Europe for 1997. She applauded the partnership between Canadian business and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) that will ensure that Canada will be the second-largest foreign participant in this major cultural event.

"The Third Pillar of Canada's foreign policy is to present the richness and diversity of Canadian culture to the world," said Mr. Axworthy. "This department's partnership with Canadian business is putting Canadian performers at centre stage before a European-wide audience."

Canadian artists invited by the Thessaloniki Festival include the Montreal-based artists LaLaLa Human Steps, pianist Alain Lefèvre, Greek-Canadian painter Paul Soulikias and the Gala des Étoiles. From Toronto are the percussion group Nexus, Theatre Smith-Gilmour, Dancemakers, Tafelmusik Baroque Ensemble, and the New World Symphony. The Royal Winnipeg Ballet will perform in Thessaloniki as part of an extensive European tour and the Winnipeg Art Gallery will present an Inuit art exhibit. The Canadian Brass quintet and guitarist Liona Boyd will round out the Canadian presence.

"The sponsors recognized the value to them of having a strong Canadian presence at Thessaloniki. As a Canadian of Greek origin, I share their appreciation of the importance of strong business and cultural ties between Canada and Greece," said Ms. Bakapanos.

Canada has become one of the largest foreign investors in Greece, with over \$1.35 billion in direct foreign investment. Canadian sponsors are TVX Gold Inc., Seagram Hellas (Greece), Bombardier,



Oerlikon Aerospace, ABB, Scotiabank, Denison Mines, SNC-Lavalin International, National Bank of Greece, The Hellespont Group, Air Greece, Air Canada and Decade International Development Ltd. The City of Montréal has also joined the partnership by sponsoring the Gala des Étoiles. Together, these sponsors are committing over \$320 000, which will be added to \$200 000 from DFAIT's International Cultural Relations program.

Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 1997 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

Canada's participation at Thessaloniki will strengthen the rich cultural ties between both countries. As a NATO ally and member of the European Union, Greece is a pole of stability in the Balkans and a catalyst for modernization in the region.

The evolving program of Canadian participation at the Festival will found at a new Web site, www.hyper.gr/canada/, now under construction. Called "Canada at Thessaloniki 1997," it will carry information and updates on the performers and sponsors.

Information about Canadian participation at the Festival is also posted on the departmental Web site at www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/greece/. This site is hyperlinked through CultureNet.

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A backgrounder is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Backgrounder

THESSALONIKI — 1997 CULTURAL CAPITAL OF EUROPE

In 1985, Athens was the first Cultural Capital of Europe, an institution envisioned by former Greek Minister of Culture and actress Melina Mercouri. As 1997's Cultural Capital of Europe, Thessaloniki will become the meeting point for all types of culture. It is an opportunity not to be passed by, an opportunity to become a focal point on the cultural map of Europe.

During 1997, artists from more than 40 countries will take part in events to be presented in Greece for the first time, many of the events supported by the participating foreign states, from as far away as Canada and Japan. Countless cultural and scientific conventions and conferences have been scheduled to take place in Thessaloniki throughout the year. Large exhibitions have also been included in the festivities. One, the *Greek Artists Abroad* exhibition, aims to present the achievement of Greeks who reside outside of Greece on all five continents.

Thessaloniki is Greece's second-largest city and home to approximately one million inhabitants. One of the largest ports of the Balkan peninsula, it is a gateway to the Mediterranean Sea and a link to the Black Sea. The history of the city is rich, its monuments marking the city's presence through various historical periods, from the Macedonian dynasties in antiquity through the Hellenistic eras, the Roman and Byzantine empires and the centuries under Ottoman rule.

Thessaloniki is one of the most beautiful tourist attractions in Europe. It prides itself in having the largest coastline of any European city, built along and around the Thermaic Gulf, and facing Mount Olympus and pine-covered green hillsides. To its south lie sandy beaches and trendy seaside resorts.

Thessaloniki is home to Greece's largest university with more than 100 000 students. The city boasts a rich cultural presence in all fields of the arts. Athens was the first Cultural Capital of Europe in 1985. After having been chosen as the Cultural Capital of Europe for 1997, Thessaloniki began planning approximately 300 works for small and large theatres, exhibit halls, cultural centres, building renovations, modernizations, archaeological walks and pedestrian zones throughout the city.

New institutions formed in Thessaloniki aim for a more permanent cultural presence extending beyond 1997. Five new museums will open in 1997: the Museum of Modern Art, the Cinema Museum, the Museum of Jewish Presence in Thessaloniki, the Design Museum and the Museum for Technology.

In addition to the Demetria International Festival, held each autumn for the past 30 years, and the annual Thessaloniki Film Festival, Thessaloniki also hosts several spring events, including an International Theatre Festival, a Festival for Youth Orchestras, a Documentary Festival and a Festival for Chamber Music.



News Release

February 24, 1997

No. 35

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CANADA SIGNS PROTOCOL WITH ISRAEL

The Honourable Art Eggleton, Minister for International Trade, and the Minister of Industry and Commerce of the State of Israel, Natan Sharansky, today signed a protocol for the extension to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) providing funding for the Canada-Israel Industrial Research and Development Foundation (CIIRDF). Both countries will contribute \$3 million each to the Foundation. The announcement was made in conjunction with their meeting this week in Israel.

CIIRDF was established to promote collaboration between Canadian and Israeli firms on industrial research and development projects.

"This CIIRDF contribution will assist firms in both countries to take advantage of the business opportunities created by the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement," said Mr. Eggleton. "Research and development is increasingly critical in advancing our economies as we approach the 21st century."

As of June 1996, a total of 12 projects had been approved for CIIRDF funding representing \$3.85 million in R&D co-operation between both countries. The majority of these projects are in the fields of biotechnology and information technologies.

"For Canada, the CIIRDF model is unique," said Mr. Eggleton. "We have not established such an instrument with any other trading partner, and we will be following its progress as it continues to contribute to stronger Canada-Israel industrial research ties."

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

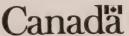
Nicole Bourget Director of Communications Office of the Minister for International Trade (613) 992-7332

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca



Government Gouvernement of Canada du Canada







February 26, 1997

No. 36

ISRAELI RESEARCH CENTRE DEDICATED TO EGGLETON

The Honourable Art Eggleton, Minister for International Trade, today was honoured by the Technion — Israel Institute of Technology by way of a research centre which will bear his name. The Art Eggleton Canadian Centre for Molecular Medicine Research is located at the Institute's Rappaport Faculty of Medicine in Haifa. Israel.

Mr. Eggleton is currently leading a Canadian business delegation to Israel to pursue business opportunities. He is scheduled to tour the Technion facilities and meet with their scientific, high-tech and medical staff.

"I am deeply honoured by Technion's gesture to dedicate this research centre in my name," said Mr. Eggleton. "It is a privilege to be associated with a technological institute that holds such an international reputation for excellence."

Technion is Israel's premier institute of technology, specializing in engineering, scientific and medical research.

The Canadian Technion Society will host a formal ceremony of dedication to Mr. Eggleton at a tribute dinner on June 1, 1997, in Toronto.

- 30 -

A copy of the news release issued by The Canadian Technion Society is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Nicole Bourget Office of the Minister for International Trade (613) 992-7332

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874



Canadian Technion Society

המכנידן

Israel Institute of Technology

970 Lawrence Ave. W., Suite 206, Toronto, Ontario M6A 3B6 Telephone:(416)789-4545 Fax:(416)789-0255 Toll Free:1-800-935-8864

PRESS RELEASE: February 26, 1997

TECHNION - ISRAEL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY NAMES RESEARCH CENTRE FOR CANADA'S MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE ART EGGLETON

Mr. Arnold Recht, National President of the Canadian Technion Society today announced that a research centre at the Rappaport Faculty of Medicine at the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa, Israel will be dedicated to the Honourable Art Eggleton, Minister for International Trade. A formal acknowledgment will be made to Mr. Eggleton at a tribute dinner on June 1, 1997 in Toronto.

Mr. Eggleton is currently leading a 50-member Canadian business delegation to Israel to pursue business opportunities. As part of his visit, he will tour the Technion campus and meet with members of the medical, scientific and high-tech staff.

"Mr. Eggleton's hard work and determination made the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement a reality", said Mr. Recht. His constant support for the Canadian Jewish Community also makes him a natural choice for such an honour."

The Art Eggleton Canadian Centre for Molecular Medicine Research has as its priority studies and research in molecular biotechnology. The Centre, is based at the Technion's Faculty of Medicine and the related Rambam Hospital, and forms a clinical and research health care infrastructure working in partnership with Technion's existing engineering and research facilities.

Technion-Israel Institute of Technology is Israel's premiere technology university. Since its establishment in 1924, it has gained an international reputation for excellence in a wide range of engineering, scientific and medical research, and uses a multi-disciplinary approach.

The Canadian Technion Society is dedicated to the advancement of Technion, and its' members and supporters aid the University's development through a variety of projects and fundraising.

-30-

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Cheryl Koperwas, National Executive Director Canadian Technion Society 1-800-935-8864



February 26, 1997

No. 37

UKRAINIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT CANADA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that his Ukrainian counterpart, Mr. Hennadii Udovenko, will visit Ottawa and Winnipeg, March 4-6. This will be Mr. Udovenko's second official visit to Canada as Ukrainian Foreign Minister.

"This visit will provide an opportunity for Canada to strengthen its growing relationship with Ukraine," said Mr. Axworthy. "Our close people-to-people links are a natural basis for increased bilateral and multilateral co-operation, in areas such as NATO enlargement."

While in Ottawa, March 4-5, Mr. Udovenko will meet with Governor General Roméo LeBlanc, Minister Axworthy and Minister of National Defence Doug Young. He will also attend a luncheon hosted by Speaker of the Senate, Gildas Molgat.

Mr. Udovenko will then visit Winnipeg, on March 6, accompanied by Mr. Axworthy, where the Ukrainian Foreign Minister will meet with Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon and address a joint meeting of the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

Minister Axworthy led a business delegation to Ukraine in October 1996. Canada and Ukraine's two-way trade in 1996 totalled \$53 million.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Catherine Lappe Director of Communications Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (613) 995-1851

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874





February 26, 1997

No. 38

CANADA RATIFIES THE HAGUE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION

On behalf of Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada Allan Rock, Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) Christine Stewart today announced the ratification by Canada of the Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.

The Convention seeks to establish safeguards so that international adoptions are carried out in the best interests of the children. The system of cooperation between member States will ensure that these guarantees are respected and will prevent the abduction of, sale of, or trafficking in, children. It is estimated that there are approximately 20 000 intercountry adoptions around the world every year, of which 2 000 involve Canadians.

"By ratifying the Convention, we are providing Canadian men and women who wish to initiate intercountry adoption procedures with a mechanism that is open and less costly than the current system, does not involve any improper financial or other gains, and, above all, will defend the interests of children," said Mr. Rock.

"The Convention is an essential tool, as it sets out an agreement to cooperate at the international level in order to harmonize the practices of different countries. This cooperation will help promote the rights of children in the world," said Mrs. Stewart in Amsterdam, where she was addressing the Amsterdam Child Labour Conference.

Adoption falls within the jurisdiction of the provinces and territories, which must pass legislation to apply the Convention. To date, five provinces have passed implementing legislation: British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan. The Convention will come into force in those provinces on April 1, 1997.

Each province and territory to which the Convention applies must designate a Central Authority to monitor the intercountry



adoption process. Canadians who wish to adopt children abroad will then be able to apply to this "single window." Procedures will be unchanged in those provinces and territories that have not yet passed the necessary implementing legislation.

The ratification of the Convention has made it necessary to amend federal immigration regulations. The amendments provide that the Central Authorities of the receiving country and the country of origin must agree to a child's placement and that immigration requirements must be met before an officer may issue an immigrant visa. The amendments should come into force on April 1, 1997.

The Minister of Human Resources Development is designated as the federal Central Authority for Canada under the Convention. Responsibilities that flow from this designation will focus on the coordination of the practical aspects of the Convention in Canada.

Sixty-six States participated in drafting the Convention, which was finalized on May 29, 1993, under the auspices of the Hague Conference on Private International Law. The Convention has already been ratified by Burkina Faso, Cyprus, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Sri Lanka, Spain and Venezuela.

- 30 -

A backgrounder and list of Central Authorities are attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Louise Lussier Department of Justice (613) 957-7949

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

Backgrounder

INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION

Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption

Under the auspices of the Hague Conference on Private International Law, the Convention was finalized on May 29, 1993, and came into force on May 1, 1995. To date, 13 countries, including Canada, have ratified the Convention.

The Convention seeks to establish a cooperative framework between "States of origin" of children in need of adoption and "receiving States" of such children. This cooperation will ensure that the interests of children are safeguarded when they are provided with an adoptive family capable of caring for them. The pillars of this cooperation are the Central Authorities.

Coming into Force

On April 1, 1997, the Convention will come into force in Canada in those provinces that have passed implementing legislation: British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan.

Files that are already in the system will not be affected by the coming into force of the Convention; they will continue to follow the same process. The Central Authorities will handle new applications made to them after April 1.

Single Window: the Central Authority

Procedures will be simplified by the establishment of a single window (provincial or territorial Central Authority) to which those who wish to adopt a child abroad will apply. Other accredited agencies or bodies will also be able to act on behalf of the Central Authority.

The Convention provides generally for the following steps in the process:

- Adoptive parents fill out an application for adoption to be presented to the Central Authority of their province or territory.
- 2. Once approved, the application will be transmitted to the Central Authority of a State of origin.
- 3. The Central Authority of the State of origin will then examine the cases of children in need of adoption and will

prepare a report to be sent to the Central Authority of the receiving State.

- 4. Together, the Central Authorities will "match" a particular child with the prospective adoptive parents.
- 5. The Central Authority of the State of origin will propose a match to the parents.
- 6. If the match is accepted and if the child satisfies the immigration criteria, the two authorities will decide to act on the adoption.
- 7. If all parties concerned agree, the adoption may take place in either State.
- 8. The child will then be transferred to the receiving State.

The new system will facilitate intercountry adoptions by allowing for greater cooperation between the States concerned, the public authorities and the accredited bodies (licensed agencies) where authorized to operate. The monitoring of the intercountry adoption process by the Central Authorities will make the system more reliable.

It is recommended that Central Authorities designated in Canada be contacted for further information on the process set up in their jurisdiction.

Private Intermediaries

Under the Convention, private intermediaries may continue to operate and to perform certain functions provided that they obtain the authorization of the State in which they operate, if the State in question has ratified the Convention.

Role of the Federal Central Authority

The federal Central Authority will primarily play a role of coordination. It will provide assistance to provincial Central Authorities, federal authorities such as Immigration, and Foreign Central Authorities, on general and case-related issues, when required.

Designation of a Central Authority is part of other Hague Conventions to which Canada is a party, including the Hague Convention on International Child Abduction and the Hague Convention on Service of Documents Abroad. As a federal State, Canada can designate more than one Central Authority.

LIST OF CENTRAL AUTHORITIES

British Columbia

Director of Adoption Services

Contact:

Ron Willems

Ministry for Children and

Family

Parliament Buildings

Victoria, B.C.

V8V 1X4

Tel.: (250) 387-3660

Fax: (250) 356-1864

New Brunswick

Minister of Health and

Community Services

Contact:

Joan Mix

Provincial Adoption Program

Consultant

Department of Health and

Community Services
P.O. Box 5100, 4th Floor

Carleton Place

520 King Street

Fredericton, New Brunswick

Tel.: (506) 444-5970

Fax: (506) 453-2082

Saskatchewan

Minister of Social Services

Contact:

Lynn Allan

International Adoption

12th Floor

1920 Broad Street

Regina, Saskatchewan

S4P 3V6

Tel.: (306) 787-5698

Fax: (306) 787-0925

Manitoba

Director of Child and Family

Services

Contact:

Donna Dickson

Provincial Coordinator,

Adoption and peri-natal

114 Garry Street

Suite 201

Winnipeg, Manitoba

R3C 4V5

Tel.: (204) 945-1651

Fax: (204) 945-6717

Prince Edward Island

Director of Child Welfare

Contact:

Ronald D. Stanley

P.O. Box 2000

Charlottetown, P.E.I.

C1A 7N8

Tel.: (902) 368-6515

Fax: (902) 368-6136

Federal Government

Minister of Human Resources

Development

Contact:

Ron Yzerman

National Adoption Desk

Finance Building

Room 1203

Tunney's Pasture

Ottawa, Ontario

K1A 1B5

Tel.: (819) 997-5564

Fax: (819) 997-3415





February 26, 1997

NEW DIRECTOR APPOINTED TO EDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Honourable Art Eggleton, Minister for International Trade, today announced the appointment of Bob Holt as a Director of the EDC (Export Development Corporation) Board. Mr. Holt's three-year appointment to this position will take effect immediately. Mr. Holt is currently CEO and Director of Sun-Rype Products of British Columbia.

"Mr. Holt is a welcome addition to the EDC Board of Directors," said Mr. Eggleton. "His strong business focus, as well as the executive managerial experience he has gained in the private sector, will prove to be an asset to the Corporation."

EDC is a financial services corporation dedicated to helping Canadian business compete and succeed in foreign markets.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Nicole Bourget Director of Communications Office of the Minister for International Trade (613) 992-7332

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874





February 27, 1997

No. 40

LLOYD AXWORTHY TO MEET WITH MADELEINE ALBRIGHT

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy announced today that he will meet U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in Washington on March 4 to review key Canada-United States and multilateral issues.

"I look forward to discussing a wide range of issues in my first bilateral meeting with the new U.S. Secretary of State," said Mr. Axworthy. "Our two countries have worked together very closely in many areas and that fruitful relationship will continue."

Among the issues that are expected to be discussed are plans to enlarge the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), land mines, United Nations reforms and financing, the Pacific Salmon Treaty and peacebuilding in Haiti.

In addition, Mr. Axworthy will meet with Samuel Berger, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, to discuss preparations for Prime Minister Chrétien's forthcoming visit to Washington, April 7-9.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Catherine Lappe Director of Communications Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (613) 995-1851

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874







February 28, 1997

No. 41

CHAN TO LEAD TRADE MISSION TO CHINA'S REGIONAL MARKETS

The Honourable Raymond Chan, Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific), today announced plans to lead a trade mission to China's emerging regional markets from March 3 to 15. Mr. Chan will be accompanied by a business delegation representing more than 25 Canadian companies.

"This visit will seek out opportunities and promote Canadian business involvement in China's regional markets," said Mr. Chan. "We are tailoring our trade promotion programs to suit the characteristics of China's regional markets and developing relations with key regional leaders to lay the foundation for greater trade with China. This is key to supporting future economic growth and job creation in Canada."

This visit marks the second federal trade mission led by Mr. Chan to China's regional markets and will focus on developing interior markets. The first, in May 1996, highlighted China's rapidly growing coastal markets.

Mr. Chan's agenda will include visits to Beijing and the provinces of Sichuan, Hubei, Yunnan and the Guangxi Autonomous Region. In addition to the business promotion agenda, Mr. Chan will discuss political, trade and economic matters as well as good governance and the rule of law during his visit.

Key emerging sectors within the Chinese interior market include agriculture, infrastructure, communications, resource development, environment and urban infrastructure development.

- 30 -

A list of the business delegation accompanying Mr. Chan is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Hilary Humphrey Office of the Honourable Raymond Chan (613) 995-1852

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca



Government Gouvernement of Canada du Canada





Visit to China of the Honourable Raymond Chan Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) March 3-15 1997

Business Delegation

Alberta Economic Development & Tourism, Edmonton, Alberta
Agra Construction (Wuhan) Co. Ltd., Hangyang, Wuhan, China
Agra International, Fang Zhuang, Beijing, China
Barrick Power, Beijing, China
Canadian Future Tek Corporation, Surrey, British Columbia
Canadian Wheat Board, Winnipeg, Manitoba
CHREOD, Ottawa, Ontario
Creative Career Systems Inc., Owen Sound, Ontario
Dessau International Ltd., Laval, Quebec
DynaMotive Technologies Corporation, Vancouver, British Columbia
Edwin Industries Canada Inc., Toronto, Ontario
GEC Alsthom Energies, Tracy, Quebec
Harris Communication (Harris Farinon Canada),

Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Quebec
Hillary Enterprises Ltd., Vancouver, British Columbia
Innovative Board Technologies Inc., Cambridge, Ontario
International Dairy Management Inc., Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Ivanhoe Capital Corporation, Vancouver, British Columbia
Kvaerner Hymac Inc., Laval, Quebec
Manulife Financial, Toronto, Ontario
Met-CHEM Canada Inc., Montreal, Quebec
MTTI Multinational Tourist & Trading Inc.,

Richmond, British Columbia

Park Georgia Group, Vancouver, British Columbia

SNC Lavalin International Inc., Singapore

Spar Aerospace Ltd., Toronto, Ontario

Sun Life Assurance of Canada, Toronto, Ontario

The S.M. Group International Inc., Montreal, Quebec

TradeStrat Inc., Barrie, Ontario

Xenexi Building Products Industries (Shenzhen) Ltd.,

Shenzhen, China



March 5, 1997

No. 42

CANADA SEEKS WTO PANEL ON AUSTRALIAN BAN ON IMPORTS OF UNCOOKED SALMON

International Trade Minister Art Eggleton and Fisheries and Oceans Minister Fred Mifflin announced today that Canada will ask the World Trade Organization (WTO) for a dispute settlement panel on Australia's ban on imports of uncooked salmon.

Canada's request for a dispute settlement panel will be made formally to the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body on March 20. The Australian government announced on December 20, 1996, that it would maintain its current ban on uncooked salmon products.

"Canada's position is that the ban cannot be supported on scientific grounds and is inconsistent with Australia's obligations under the WTO," said Mr. Eggleton.

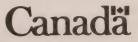
"Canadian salmon producers in British Columbia have been unfairly denied access to Australia's market for over 20 years," said Mr. Mifflin. "Therefore, I strongly support Minister Eggleton's decision to request a WTO panel."

In 1975, Australia introduced a new quarantine measure that prohibited the import of uncooked salmon products, effectively requiring that imported salmon be either heat treated or canned. Canadian exports of fresh, frozen or chilled salmon were banned from the market.

Canada held a number of technical discussions with the Australians in an effort to resolve the issue. These efforts were not successful.

In October 1995, Canada requested WTO consultations with Australia in a further attempt to settle the problem. These consultations were held in November 1995 without reaching a resolution.







For further information, media representatives may contact:

Nicole Bourget Director of Communications Office of the Minister for International Trade (613) 992-7332

Bonnie Mewdell Office of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (613) 992-3474

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca



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March 6, 1997

No. 43

CANADA SIGNS AGREEMENTS WITH UKRAINE

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and the Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadii Udovenko signed two bilateral agreements on peacekeeping and information sharing today in Winnipeg. Udovenko is on an official visit to Canada March 4-7.

The Joint Declaration on Peacekeeping enumerates shared principles that enhance and promote Canadian-Ukrainian bilateral relations through peacekeeping activities. This declaration provides a vehicle for continuing Canadian-Ukrainian co-operation and will develop and expand activities such as the Military Training Assistance Program, which trains Ukrainian military and civilian personnel through courses and joint exercises with Canadians in areas such as search and rescue, humanitarian operations and peacekeeping.

"Canada and Ukraine support regional stability and co-operation and the maintenance of international peace and security through this constructive partnership, " Mr. Axworthy said.

In accordance with Canada and Ukraine's continuing military and security co-operation, National Defence Minister Douglas Young announced yesterday that Canada will establish a Canadian Forces' attaché position at the Canadian embassy in Kyiv, which currently serves as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's contact mission in Ukraine. Minister Young met with Minister Udovenko vesterday in Ottawa.

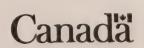
The Memorandum of Understanding on Co-operation in the Sphere of Information Sharing encourages co-operation on disseminating foreign policy information in Canada and Ukraine. Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs will consult each other on information distribution concerning mutual foreign policy activities and exchange information products, such as bulletins.

"Although information sharing is part of normal bilateral relations between Canada and many OECD [Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development] nations, we only began to develop our capacity with Ukraine after the end of the Cold War, "



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Mr. Axworthy said. "Canada and Ukraine are now taking a further step to partnership in communications through the signing of this agreement."

Coinciding with the signing of this agreement, a representative from the Corel Corporation presented Minister Udovenko with the Corel Web Graphic Suite software for the development of a Ukrainian Foreign Ministry Web Site on the Internet.

While in Winnipeg, Minister Udovenko is also meeting with Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon; delivering a speech to a joint luncheon meeting of the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress; and laying a wreath during a ceremony at the Taras Shevchenko monument.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Catherine Lappe Director of Communications Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (613) 995-1851

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

March 7, 1997 Release No. 44

AXWORTHY TO VISIT SAN FRANCISCO AND LOS ANGELES

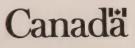
Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy will visit San Francisco and Los Angeles from March 12 to 14 to promote Canadian foreign policy objectives among leading members of California's business and political communities. An address to the Los Angeles World Affairs Council will be the highlight of the Minister's visit.

"California is a dynamic economic, political and cultural centre, and an important window on Latin America and the Pacific region," said Mr. Axworthy. "Western Canada and California are leaders in building partnerships in the Pacific community and can share valuable experiences in forming stronger ties in the region during 1997 — Canada's Year of Asia Pacific — and beyond."

In San Francisco on March 12, the Minister will discuss Canada-U.S. partnerships with Canadian studies and international studies faculty and students at the University of California at Berkeley. At Stanford University, Mr. Axworthy will discuss hemispheric cooperation with members of the North American Institute and other academics.

In Los Angeles on March 13 at the Pacific Council on International Relations, Mr. Axworthy will discuss the enormous challenges and opportunities in Asia, and how the United States and Canada can co-operate to both nations' advantage. The Council has more than 600 members, and focusses its research and conference activities on the Pacific Rim. Several prominent Canadian political and business leaders are on the Council's board.

The Minister will deliver his address to the Los Angeles World Affairs Council on March 14, where he will speak on how Canada and the United States can co-operate in a changing world. The Council is composed of leading Los Angeles citizens who have an active interest in foreign affairs. Previous speakers have included President Bill Clinton and Vice-President Albert Gore.



For further information, media representatives may contact:

Catherine Lappe Director of Communications Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (613) 995-1851

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

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March 7, 1997

No. 45

AUSTRIAN SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO VISIT CANADA

The Honourable Art Eggleton, Minister for International Trade, today announced that the Austrian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Benita Ferrero-Waldner, will visit Canada from March 9 to 12. The program of her visit includes a series of activities in Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver and Calgary.

"Canada and Austria enjoy a healthy trade and investment relationship, " said Mr. Eggleton. "We have a solid base for further expanding areas of bilateral co-operation."

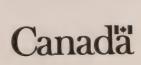
In addition to meeting with Minister Eggleton, Mrs. Ferrero-Waldner will meet with the Minister for International Co-operation and Minister Responsible for la Francophonie, Don Boudria, Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) Christine Stewart, the Speaker of the House of Commons, Gilbert Parent, and the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the House of Commons, Bill Graham.

As Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Ferrero-Waldner is responsible for Austria's foreign bilateral relations outside of Europe, Austria's official development assistance program, and the preparations for Austria's Presidency of the European Union in the second half of 1998. The Republic of Austria joined the European Union on January 1, 1995.

Mrs. Ferrero-Waldner is the most senior cabinet minister of the Republic of Austria to visit Canada since former Chancellor Franz Vranitzky made an official visit in February 1995.

In 1996, trade between Canada and Austria totalled more than \$1 billion, an increase of approximately 19 per cent over the previous year.







For further information, media representatives may contact:

Nicole Bourget Director of Communications Office of the Minister for International Trade (613) 992-7332

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

March 12, 1997

No. 46

CANADA TEMPORARILY SUSPENDS OPERATIONS AT MISSION IN LAGOS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced the temporary suspension of operations at the Canadian High Commission in Lagos, Nigeria, due to concern for the personal safety of Canadian officials and security of Canadian offices. Repeated security assessments of the situation have determined that there is an unacceptable level of risk at the mission.

"Canadian officials at the High Commission have not been given the security assurances by the Nigerians that we are guaranteed in the Vienna Convention," said Mr. Axworthy. "It is the desire of Canada that the Nigerian government ensure that this matter be resolved quickly so that the High Commission can resume normal operations as soon as possible."

The Canadian High Commission in Lagos has been without a security officer since December 1996 and efforts by Canada to send a replacement have been blocked by the failure of the Nigerian government to issue a visa for this person. Mr. Axworthy regretted that Canada had no choice in this matter and that the decision to suspend operations temporarily had to be made. The suspension of operations at the High Commission in Lagos does not mean, however, that Canada has broken off bilateral diplomatic relations with Nigeria.

Nigerian officials have also made unfounded allegations that Canada has supported recent acts of violence in Nigeria. The combination of these allegations with the hindering of our normal staffing has made it impossible to conduct routine activities in Lagos.

Despite Canada's attempts to resolve this situation, including Minister Axworthy's recent telephone conversation and correspondence with Nigerian Foreign Minister Chief Tom Ikimi, no solution has been achieved.

Although operations at the High Commission will be suspended temporarily, Canadian consular affairs in Nigeria will be managed



by the Embassy of the United States out of the former Canadian chancery location in Lagos, while other High Commission activities, such as visa services, will be transferred to the High Commission in Accra, Ghana. The Acting High Commissioner and other Canadian officials have already returned to Canada.

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March 14, 1997

No. 47

CANADA TO APPEAL WTO RULING IN MAGAZINE TRADE DISPUTE

Minister for International Trade Art Eggleton and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Canadian Heritage Sheila Copps today announced that Canada is preparing to appeal the recent World Trade Organization (WTO) ruling on Canadian measures that promote Canada's magazine industry. The WTO made public its ruling on the case today, by circulating the final report to all WTO members. The report supports three of four complaints made by the United States to the WTO.

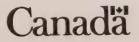
"The Government remains committed in its support of this vital cultural industry," said Mr. Eggleton. "The trade law experts are examining very thoroughly the details of the ruling. We continue to consult with the Canadian magazine industry, the Canadian Business Press, Canadian Heritage, Finance Canada, Industry Canada, Revenue Canada and Canada Post Corporation. We are working together to plan our appeal strategy and to assess the full impact of this ruling on the industry."

"The final report states very clearly that this decision does not take issue with the ability of any WTO member to take measures to protect its cultural identity," said Ms. Copps. "Canada will continue to promote its cultural objectives and ensure that Canadians have access to magazines that speak to us about our own country."

The WTO ruled on U.S. complaints against four Canadian measures relating to magazines:

- Canada's Tariff Code 9958, which prohibits the importation of split-run magazines;
- Canada's Excise Tax Act, which places an 80 per cent excise tax on advertising placed in split-run magazines circulating in Canada;
- the postal subsidy program, which allows certain Canadian periodicals to reach their subscribers at lower rates;





• the commercial publications mail rates (differential between domestic and foreign commercial publications mail rates).

Of these four disputed measures, the WTO has upheld Canada's right to maintain a postal subsidy for eligible Canadian publications.

Both parties to the dispute may appeal legal aspects of the decision. The WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding allows a maximum of 60 days for the parties to file their appeal. The WTO Appellate Body is expected to reach a decision within 60 days after the formal Notice of Appeal has been filed.

Both ministers stressed that the WTO decision does not immediately change the rules of business for our Canadian magazines.

"The laws, policies and programs of Canada remain as they are unless Canada decides otherwise," added Mr. Eggleton.

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A backgrounder on the U.S. challenge and a summary of the WTO Final Report are attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

Backgrounder

U.S. CHALLENGE TO CANADIAN MEASURES RESPECTING PERIODICALS

Overview

Since 1965, Canada has had a policy in place to ensure that magazines with editorial content developed for the Canadian market can compete for the limited advertising revenues available in the Canadian market.

Canadian measures to support the magazine publishing industry are designed to ensure affordable postal rates for subscription sales, and to ensure that the magazine advertising revenues available in Canada are channelled to Canadian magazines. In order to be entitled to sell advertising in Canada, foreign-owned magazines must contain at least 80 per cent editorial content produced specifically for the Canadian market.

A regional edition of a magazine containing advertising directed at a specific regional market is known as a "split-run" edition. Split-run editions of magazines containing more than 5 per cent of advertising directed at the Canadian market may not be imported into Canada. In 1993, Sports Illustrated circumvented this import ban by electronically transmitting its magazines to a printer in Canada, thereby avoiding the Canadian border.

In 1994, the Task Force on the Canadian Magazine Industry recommended new measures to respond to this new challenge. As a result, in 1995 the Canadian government imposed a new 80 per cent excise tax on advertising placed in split-runs. Sports Illustrated then withdrew its split-run version from the Canadian market, and the U.S. government launched a challenge before the World Trade Organization (WTO).

On June 19, 1996, the WTO established a dispute-settlement panel to address the U.S. complaint covering four Canadian measures related to magazines, namely:

- Canada's Tariff Code 9958, which prohibits the importation of split-run magazines;
- the 80 per cent excise tax on advertising in split-run magazines (Part V.1. of the Excise Tax Act);
- the postal subsidy (publications assistance program), which allows certain Canadian periodicals to reach their subscribers at lower costs;

• the commercial publications mail rates (differential between domestic and foreign commercial publications rates).

Another measure that the Canadian government uses to promote the Canadian magazine industry is Section 19 of the Income Tax Act. For ads directed at the Canadian market, Section 19 allows Canadian advertisers a tax deduction for the costs of advertising in Canadian periodicals. This measure was not challenged at the WTO.

Chronology of Events

June 19, 1996: Further to the request of the United States, the WTO established a dispute-settlement panel to address a U.S. complaint about Canadian measures that promote Canada's magazine industry.

September 5: The U.S. submitted its first written argument.

September 26: Canada submitted its written rebuttal.

October 11: Both parties presented oral arguments before the WTO panel in Geneva.

November 1: Canada and the U.S. submitted further written arguments.

November 14: The WTO panel reconvened for a second hearing in Geneva.

December 6: The WTO panel provided its summary of the facts in the case.

January 16, 1997: Canada and the United States were given the opportunity to comment on the panel's interim report.

February 21: The final report was released to both parties on a confidential basis.

March 14: The final report is released to all WTO Members.

SUMMARY OF THE FINAL REPORT OF THE WTO PANEL ON SPLIT-RUN MAGAZINES

The panel decided against Canada on three out of four of the measures contested by the United States. The panel sided with Canada in respect of the postal subsidy.

1. The Tariff Code

Tariff Code 9958 prohibits the importation of split-run magazines into Canada. Such a prohibition is inconsistent with our General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) obligations, however, Canada argued that we were entitled to the measure under GATT Article XX, as it was "necessary to secure compliance with other GATT-consistent legislation" (i.e., with Section 19 of the Income Tax Act).

The panel is of the opinion that the measure is to secure "the attainment of the objectives" of Section 19 of the Income Tax Act (to channel advertising to Canadian magazines) and not "necessary to secure compliance" with the measure.

2. The Excise Tax

Canada argued that the 80 per cent excise tax is a measure to tax the advertising in split-run magazines, and as such is a tax on a service, not a good, and that GATT rules do not apply in this case.

The panel was "not fully convinced by Canada's characterization of the Excise Tax as a measure intended to regulate trade in advertising services, in view of the fact that there is no comparable regulation on advertisements through other media and the fact that the tax is imposed on a 'per issue' basis." The panel nonetheless found that the GATT does indeed apply to Canada's excise tax, and found that the tax is inconsistent with our national treatment obligations.

3. Commercial Postal Rates

The United States claimed that Canada Post's practice of charging domestic periodicals lower postal rates than imported periodicals is in violation of Article III:4 of GATT 1994, in respect of our national treatment obligations. Canada's argument was essentially that, since Canada Post is a Crown Corporation with a legal personality distinct from the Canadian government, the "commercial Canadian" or "commercial international" rates it charges for the delivery of periodicals are established by Canada Post, based on commercial and marketing practices, are not

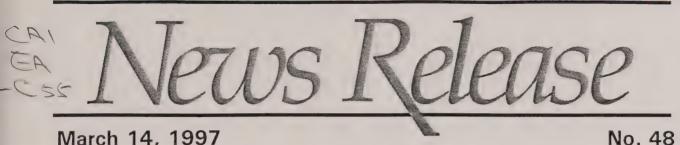
influenced by government policy, and therefore do not qualify as "regulations" or "requirements" within the meaning of GATT Article III:4.

The panel rejected Canada's argument, saying that "it is clear that Canada Post generally operates under governmental instructions," and if the Canadian government considers Canada Post's pricing policy to be inappropriate, it can instruct Canada Post to change the rates under its directive power based on Section 22 of the Canada Post Corporation Act.

4. The Postal Subsidy

The United States claimed that Canada's postal rate assistance program is a violation of our GATT obligations, because the subsidy is not directly payable to the publisher of Canadian magazines. Article III:8(b) of GATT 1994 states that "the provisions of this Article shall not prevent the payment of subsidies exclusively to domestic producers." The United States claimed that this provision is not applicable in the present case because the payment of subsidies by Canadian Heritage is not made directly to Canadian publishers, but rather to Canada Post.

The panel decided that, if, as maintained by the United States, Canada Post is a government agency, the payment of funds from Canadian Heritage to Canada Post is merely an internal transfer of resources, and the payment of the subsidy is made directly to Canadian publishers. The measure is allowable.



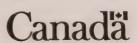
AXWORTHY SATISFIED WITH EVACUATION OF CANADIANS FROM ALBANIA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy expressed satisfaction with the evacuation of most Canadians from the capital of Albania, with the help of the British Embassy in Tirana. A representative of the Canadian Embassy in Budapest, which serves Albania, accompanied the Canadians aboard an Italian naval vessel. After leaving Durrës (Durrazzo), they will land in Brindisi, in southeastern Italy today. They will be greeted by the Canadian consul in Italy, who has offered them the necessary consular services.

Mr. Axworthy expressed very serious concern about Albania's deteriorating domestic situation. He urged all Albanians to give the country's new prime minister a chance. "Canada sympathizes with the people of Albania, who have endured financial and economic hardship. However, restraint must be shown by avoiding the use of force and by laying down arms immediately," he added.

Mr. Axworthy urged "all political forces in Albania to continue dialogue aimed at holding free, honest and safe elections." In this connection, Canada welcomed the agreement reached on March 9 among Albania's political parties to form a "national reconciliation" government and to hold legislative elections by June. Canada also fully supports the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) mission assigned to former Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, who held productive meetings with President Berisha and representatives of political parties on March 8. Canada was actively involved in the OSCE efforts that led to this mediation, and encourages Albania to use the Organization's resources and expertise, especially for the smooth conduct of the elections.

Mr. Axworthy urged the Prime Minister of Albania to work closely with international financial institutions to continue reform. Finally, he called on Albanian authorities to clear up financial bankruptcies, and to adopt the necessary acts and regulations to better govern the banking sector and financial corporations.



On March 13, the Department issued an advisory to Canadians, urging them to leave Albania under current circumstances. About 16 Canadians are known to the Canadian Embassy in Budapest, which serves Albania. Most live in the Tirana area. A representative of the Embassy was in Tirana today to repatriate Canadians in the capital of Albania, in co-operation with the British Embassy.

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March 14, 1997

No. 49

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ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT CANADA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced the official visit to Canada, from March 17 to 19, of the Foreign Affairs Minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Mr. Ahmed Attaf.

The visit, the first by an Algerian Foreign Minister since Canada-Algeria diplomatic relations were established in 1962, follows the December 1996 visit to Algeria by Don Boudria, Minister for International Co-operation and Minister Responsible for la Francophonie.

With trade between the two countries amounting to nearly a billion dollars in 1996, Algeria is one of Canada's leading economic partners in Africa and the Middle East.

"Our relations with Algeria are benefiting from a fresh impetus in the economic, financial, scientific, cultural and technical sectors," said Mr. Axworthy, who will meet with Mr. Attaf to examine ways to strengthen Canada-Algeria bilateral relations and to discuss international and regional issues of common concern.

In Ottawa, Mr. Attaf will also meet with Senate Speaker Gildas Molgat and House of Commons Speaker Gilbert Parent. A meeting with the members of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade is also scheduled, as well as an address by Mr. Attaf before the National Press Club.

In Montreal, Mr. Attaf will participate in a luncheon meeting hosted by Martin Cauchon, Secretary of State for Regional Development (Quebec), to be attended by a group of business people. A meeting is also planned with Montreal's Algerian community.

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March 17, 1997

No. 50

JOINT U.S.-CANADIAN STATEMENT ON PACIFIC SALMON

The governments of the United States of America and Canada announced today that the negotiating process concerning Pacific salmon will continue. This process, which was initiated by the two governments on February 5, 1997, includes direct participation by stakeholders from relevant regions. The two governments had agreed to make a preliminary review of progress by mid-March.

The governments are pleased that the stakeholder groups have made progress. Based on the progress to date, the governments agreed to continue the process. Because timing is important, the governments have set May 9, 1997, as a closure date for the stakeholders to complete work on the fisheries now within their mandates. At that time, the governments will review the status of this work as well as consider whether additional assignments should be made to stakeholders and whether separate work needs to be done with regard to negotiation of fishing regimes for 1997. The two governments encouraged their stakeholders to meet frequently between now and May 9, 1997.

The governments commended the stakeholders for the time, effort and creativity they are giving to this process, and expressed their hopes that the stakeholders will reach successful conclusions.

- 30 -

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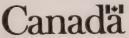
Yves Fortier Canada's Chief Negotiator on Pacific Salmon (514) 847-4747

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March 17, 1997 No. 51

CHRISTINE STEWART TO ADDRESS UN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy announced today that Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) Christine Stewart will address the 53rd session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (CHR) in Geneva on March 19, 1997.

"A commitment to human rights is fundamental to Canadian values and identity and forms a crucial element of government policy, both internationally and domestically. The Commission's work, over the past 50 years, has moulded our shared values into internationally recognized human rights standards of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights," said Mr. Axworthy.

"We attach great importance to the Commission and to its central role in promoting human rights within the greater United Nations system. Canada believes that the broadest possible realization of democracy and protection of human rights is key to achieving other basic international security and development goals," added Mrs. Stewart.

As the main United Nations human rights body, the Commission, which this year meets from March 10 to April 18, has an extensive mandate that allows it to examine the whole spectrum of human rights issues. This year, the 53 States Members of the Commission will scrutinize human rights conditions in over 15 States and territories, and will consider a number of thematic issues. The 53rd session of the Commission will also be an opportunity for member countries, including Canada, to advance preparations for the celebration, in 1998, of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In the CHR, Canada leads on resolutions on the human rights of women, freedom of opinion and expression, human rights treaty bodies, as well as human rights and mass exoduses.

While in Geneva, Mrs. Stewart will meet UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Mrs. Sadako Ogata, and the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga.



She will also have bilateral meetings with ministers of other governments and will meet representatives of Canadian non-governmental organizations.

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March 18, 1997 No. 52

AXWORTHY OPENS CANADA-OECD SYMPOSIUM

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today opened a two-day Symposium on Military Expenditures in Developing Countries. The Symposium is hosted jointly by Canada and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

"In the post-Cold War era, the world community has recognized that security can no longer be defined solely in military terms," noted Mr. Axworthy in his opening remarks. "Human security also depends on respect for human rights, good governance, adequate resources for social and economic investments, and environmentally sustainable development. We need to find approaches that balance military and human security."

The Ottawa Symposium is intended to further the dialogue on the efforts of developing countries to achieve the necessary balance between security interests and development needs. Participants at the Symposium include officials from both developed and developing countries, international financial institutions, regional organizations, and non-governmental organizations, as well as independent experts.

Canada has worked to raise the profile of the issue of military expenditures in developing countries since it was discussed at the G-7 Summits in Halifax (1995) and Lyon (1996). Minister Axworthy tabled the Canadian government's approach to the subject in a strategy document entitled "Reduction of Military Expenditures in Developing Countries," which was tabled in the House of Commons last June.

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The text of the Minister's statement to the Symposium is attached.

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca



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AXWORTHY EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR UN REFORM PACKAGE

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today expressed Canada's support for the first phase of reform measures announced by United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

"We welcome the wide range of reforms announced by Secretary-General Annan. They are a worthy contribution to the overall reform agenda of the UN," said Mr. Axworthy. "Canada has been at the forefront of UN members that are working to renew the organization and to make it more effective, efficient and better prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century."

The measures announced at the UN General Assembly include proposals for a reduction in the next UN regular budget; elimination of some 1000 positions; merger of three economic/development departments; extension of common services arrangements for administration, finance, personnel and procurement; improvements in the UN's capacity to deliver its programs at the country level; and reduction in documentation.

Noting the financial crisis that the UN has experienced in recent years, Minister Axworthy underlined that Canada is one of a handful of members that always pays its annual UN assessments on time, in full and without conditions. This has given Canadian representatives added credibility in their efforts to promote UN renewal.

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March 18, 1997

No. 53



March 19, 1997

No. 54

MINISTERS ROBILLARD AND AXWORTHY ANNOUNCE VISA-FREE ACCESS FOR HONG KONG'S VISITORS

Luciennne Robillard, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, and Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Foreign Affairs, today announced that holders of certain Hong Kong travel documents will be exempt from Canada's visitor visa requirement. Specifically, holders of the Hong Kong British National Overseas (BNO) passport and, as of July 1, 1997, the Special Administrative Region (SAR) passport, will not require visitor visas in order to visit Canada.

"Canada has an enormous stake in a smooth transition and in the continued well-being of the people of Hong Kong. This arrangement is an important re-affirmation of Canada's confidence in the future of Hong Kong," said Mr. Axworthy. "It underlines the important principles of continuity and autonomy promised for Hong Kong after July 1, 1997."

In November 1996, Minister Robillard announced that Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the Immigration Department of Hong Kong had signed three memorandums of understanding covering such matters as the orderly removal to Hong Kong of its residents who are found to have violated Canadian law. Madame Robillard noted that Canada concluded this arrangement directly with the Hong Kong Government, since immigration will continue to fall under Hong Kong authority following the transition. This is in keeping with the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration and Hong Kong's Basic Law. The Chinese government has indicated its support for this approach.

"I have watched with great satisfaction the development of a vibrant and mutually beneficial relationship between the people of Hong Kong and Canada," observed Madame Robillard. "Visitor visa exemption for visitors, along with the demonstrated goodwill of the appropriate authorities, will encourage this relationship to continue for the benefit of all our peoples," she added.

Visitor visa exemption for Hong Kong is one of a number of initiatives by which the Canadian government is working to



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protect Canadian interests through the transition in Hong Kong. At a speaking engagement in Toronto on March 24, Mr. Axworthy will launch a new publication on the conditions of entry and residency in Hong Kong, after the territory's transition to Chinese sovereignty. The purpose of the brochure is to provide a guide for Canadians visiting or resident in Hong Kong.

Canada has long-standing commercial and people-to-people ties with Hong Kong. There are about half a million Canadians of Hong Kong origin living in Canada. Over 100 000 Canadian citizens currently reside in Hong Kong.

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Citizenship and Immigration Canada Internet site: http://cicnet.ci.gc.ca

Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

March 19, 1997

No. 55

CANADIAN COMPANIES OFFERED WINNING STRATEGIES TO SUCCEED INTERNATIONALLY

The Honourable Art Eggleton, Minister for International Trade, and the Honourable John Manley, Minister of Industry, today released Canada's International Business Strategy (CIBS) 1997-98. This annual initiative is a blueprint laying out how the federal and provincial governments and industry will work together to generate new international opportunities for Canadian business.

This year, the international business strategies span 27 key industry sectors and include an Aboriginal Products, Services and Technology strategy, and a new Construction, Architectural and Engineering Services strategy.

"CIBS is a central element of the federal government's commitment to a Team Canada partnership, focussed on developing winning strategies that allow Canadian businesses to access international markets," said Mr. Eggleton. "Helping Canadian companies to succeed in these markets will create jobs and growth back home."

The CIBS Compendium, an electronic on-line list of federally and provincially sponsored sectoral activities taking place in Canada and abroad, in which the business community can participate, will be available to Canadian companies again this year. The CIBS Compendium will be updated regularly.

"With 40 per cent of GDP and one in three jobs in Canada dependent upon exports, it's clear that trade is critical to the Canadian economy," said Mr. Manley. "The relatively small size of our market also indicates that Canadian businesses must export to grow and increase their competitiveness."

CIBS sector strategies are valuable tools for both government and the private sector. Through National Sector Teams, composed of federal, provincial and private sector representatives, governments are better able to co-ordinate their efforts and reduce overlap and duplication. At the same time, CIBS gives



Canadian industry a real opportunity to influence government strategies and spending priorities.

The complete CIBS industry strategies are available only electronically through the Internet at http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca or http://www.infoexport.gc.ca or http://dserver.ic.gc.ca. FaxLink service is also available at (613) 944-4500. Diskette versions and a limited quantity of the abridged hard copy versions are also available upon request through the InfoCentre by telephone at 1-800-267-8376 or (613) 944-4000 and by fax at (613) 996-9709.

-30-

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March 19, 1997

No. 56

EGGLETON REPORTS ON CANADA'S INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The Honourable Art Eggleton, Minister for International Trade, today tabled a report on Canada's international business development (IBD) endeavours. The report, entitled Achievements of the International Business Development Program, responds to recommendations put forth in the November 1996 Auditor General's Report on Canada's Export Promotion Activities.

This report will serve as an annual report card to update Canadians on the results and achievements of the government's international business development efforts.

"The government aims to double the number of active exporters by the year 2000, " said Mr. Eggleton. "In order to make this possible, governments and the private sector are working in a Team Canada partnership to assist exporters in meeting the challenge of the global marketplace."

Canada's International Business Strategy (CIBS) (1997-98) is the focal point of the federal government's commitment to a Team Canada partnership. While CIBS outlines how partners will achieve international business sudcess in 27 industry sectors, this annual report card evaluates the effectiveness of government programs and services available to assist Canadian companies.

"IBD programs and initiatives provide the means for Canadian exporters to diversify into new markets, attract foreign investment, and provide the highest value-added information and intelligence possible to meet the needs of Canadian exporters, " said Mr. Eggleton.

- 30 -

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March 19, 1997

No. 57

EGGLETON AWARDS MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE CHALLENGE CUP TO WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY

The Honourable Art Eggleton, Minister for International Trade, today presented the Minister for International Trade Challenge Cup to the members of a team of graduate business students from Wilfrid Laurier University of Waterloo, Ontario.

Wilfrid Laurier University won the Minister's Cup as the top Canadian team in the annual Dalhousie University International Business Case Competition. Members of the winning Canadian team are Marianne Bernardo, Susana Lopez, Gustavo Scaiano, Gary Trasher and Kelly Young. The team faculty advisors are Steven Preece and Detlev Nitsch. The University of Vermont received the international Maritime Tel & Tel Trophy as the overall winner of the competition.

"Dalhousie has again done an outstanding job organizing the competition. The Challenge Cup recognizes the talents of Canadian students in international business and helps prepare them for the challenges they will face in the global arena," said Mr. Eggleton. "I congratulate the Wilfrid Laurier team on a winning effort against competitors from around the world."

This unique competition is conducted via fax and teleconferencing and draws on real international business situations. The competition was established in 1987 by graduate students at Dalhousie University with sponsorship by the Maritime Telegraph and Telephone Company.

This year, 17 universities participated in the competition including teams from Finland, England, Scotland, Mexico, Brazil, the United States and Canada. The five finalists were Dalhousie University, Halifax; Memorial University, Newfoundland; Boston College, Boston; Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo; and the University of Vermont, Vermont.

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March 20, 1997

No. 58

CANADA CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LA FRANCOPHONIE

Don Boudria, Minister for International Co-operation and Minister Responsible for la Francophonie, is pleased to celebrate today the International Day of la Francophonie. The day gives Francophones worldwide the opportunity to celebrate their belonging to the international French-speaking community.

March 20 marks the anniversary of the creation of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation (ACCT) in Niamey in 1970. Since the Cotonou Summit of December 1995, the ACCT has officially been known as the Agence de la Francophonie.

"This name change reflects the evolving role, since the summits began, of la Francophonie and its secretariat, the chief operating arm. Recent summits have defined new political priorities and a modern approach, which uses communications to promote development, " Mr. Boudria said.

Mr. Boudria added that Canada's very active involvement in la Francophonie is important for Francophones in every region of Canada, as well as for all Canadians. According to the Minister, this presence not only favours the development and international influence of Canada's francophone culture, but also promotes justice, democracy and peace, values cherished by all Canadians.

"La Francophonie is alive and well throughout the world, comprising more than 400 million people spread out over five continents. The diversity of the Francophone culture is what contributes to its great richness, " said Mr. Boudria.

Mr. Boudria invited representatives of Francophone countries and numerous stakeholders in la Francophonie to attend a ceremony on Parliament Hill on March 20, at which the Prix de la Francophonie nationale, the Prix de la Francophonie internationale, and the Ordre de la Pléiade de l'Assemblée internationale des parlementaires de langue française (International Assembly of French-Speaking Parliamentarians) will be awarded.

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March 21, 1997

No. 59

AXWORTHY TO VISIT HAITI

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy will pay a working visit to Haiti on March 26 to discuss a range of current issues with President René Préval and members of the Haitian government. The Minister's last visit to Haiti was in May 1996.

"Canada is pleased with the progress that has been made in Haiti since the international community's intervention in 1994," said Mr. Axworthy. "As a close friend and neighbour, we continue to be particularly interested in the ongoing stability and democratic development of this country."

Mr. Axworthy will also meet with the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Enrique ter Horst, who will be providing a report on the UN Support Mission in Haiti (UNSMIH) to the UN Security Council. The Minister will also meet with the Commander of UNSMIH, General Pierre Daigle. He is also planning to visit the Maple Leaf Camp, where he will meet Canadian police officers and military personnel serving in Haiti.

This visit will enable Mr. Axworthy to assess first-hand the situation in Haiti and to discuss with President Préval and members of the government the role that the international community can play in helping to maintain political stability on the Caribbean island.

On December 5, 1996, the Government of Canada supported the decision of the United Nations Security Council to grant an extension to UNSMIH, which is currently scheduled to terminate on July 31, 1997. Canada maintains a contribution to the Mission of 750 troops and 100 police officers. UNSMIH's mandate is to assist in the professionalization of the Haitian National Police, to help maintain a climate of public security and to provide assistance in strengthening Haiti's democratic institutions.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874



March 21, 1997 No. 60

CANADA CONDEMNS TERRORIST BOMBING IN ISRAEL

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy strongly condemned today's terrorist bombing in Tel Aviv and offered his sympathies to the victims, their families and the people of Israel.

"At this time of terrible pain and suffering, our thoughts and prayers are with the innocent victims of this cowardly act," said Mr. Axworthy.

The Minister also expressed Canada's continuing support for the Middle East Peace Process. "We must not allow the actions of extremists to destroy the hopes for peace and reconciliation in the region. The differences that divide Israel and its neighbours can only be resolved through dialogue and negotiation," stated Mr. Axworthy.

The bomb, which went off in a downtown Tel Aviv café, killed three people and injured many others.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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ER I News Release

March 24, 1997

No. 61

NEW GUIDE FOR CANADIANS VISITING OR RESIDENT IN HONG KONG

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan today released a new publication on the conditions of entry and residency in Hong Kong, after the territory's transition to Chinese sovereignty on July 1, 1997.

"Canada has a tremendous stake in a smooth transition. We have longstanding and close people-to-people ties, and I want to ensure the well-being of Canadians as they continue to travel, live and work in Hong Kong," said Minister Axworthy during a speech to faculty and students at the University of Toronto.

The new publication, Hong Kong: A Guide for Visiting and Resident Canadians, describes the four categories of entry and residency, namely the right of abode, the right to land, unconditional stay and conditional stay. The publication also outlines other considerations related to, for instance, dual nationality, the availability of consular services and returning to Canada.

"The Government of Canada continues to actively seek clarification on the policies, procedures and arrangements allowing Canadians to work and live in Hong Kong after July 1, 1997," said Mr. Axworthy.

"We believe it is important for Canadians who live, travel and do business in Hong Kong to become familiar with how they may be affected by the territory's transition to Chinese sovereignty," said Secretary of State Chan at a news conference in Vancouver. "We urge Canadians to read this publication and check with the Department periodically to obtain updates or additional information as they become available."

The Government of Canada encourages all Canadians to use only their Canadian citizenship as the basis for international travel and all dealings with other governments. This includes obtaining entry and residency status in Hong Kong and/or any other country.







Last week, the Government announced that holders of the Hong Kong British National Overseas (BNO) passport and, as of July 1, 1997, the Special Administrative Region (SAR) passport, will not require visitor visas in order to visit Canada.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Hilary Humphrey Office of the Secretary of State (Asia Pacific) (613) 995-1852

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

This document and the publication are available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca or by calling the InfoCentre at 1-800-267-8376 or (613) 944-4000.



ER News Release

March 25, 1997

APR 13 1997

No. 62

AXWORTHY TO VISIT CHINA, JAPAN AND HONG KONG

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy will travel to China, Japan and Hong Kong from April 1 to 5 for a series of bilateral meetings with government leaders.

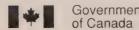
Mr. Axworthy will arrive in Beijing on April 1 where he will meet with his Chinese counterpart, Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, and other senior members of China's government on April 2.
Mr. Axworthy is expected to discuss bilateral and international issues, including Canada's relations with Hong Kong.

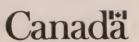
"In China, I look forward to discussing regional and global issues of importance to Canada and China, such as the transition of Hong Kong and the upcoming APEC [Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation] forum, which Canada will be chairing in November 1997," said Mr. Axworthy.

Mr. Axworthy's official visit to Japan, Canada's second-largest trading partner, from April 3 to 4 follows on Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda's visit to Canada last September. In Tokyo, Mr. Axworthy will meet with Foreign Minister Ikeda, and is expected to call on Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and Director General of the Defence Agency of Japan (Minister of Defence) Fumio Kyuma. These meetings will involve discussions on a range of joint bilateral and multilateral issues, including regional peace and security, anti-personnel land mines, human rights, renewal of the United Nations, and Canada's role as this year's Chair of the APEC forum. Mr. Axworthy is also scheduled to deliver a luncheon address to Japanese opinion leaders and media on April 4.

"My visit to Japan will be an excellent opportunity to build on the mature relationship that exists between our two countries, through discussions on a broad range of political and security issues, including peacekeeping," said Mr. Axworthy.

Mr. Axworthy will then proceed to Hong Kong for a one-day visit consisting of meetings with Hong Kong Governor Christopher Patten and Chief Executive Designate Tung Chee-Hwa. The transition of Hong Kong to Chinese rule will be the focus of these meetings.





"In Hong Kong, my objective will be to advance Canadian interests in a smooth transition for Hong Kong that preserves Hong Kong's continuity and autonomy," said Mr. Axworthy. "To that end, the Government of Canada has taken several steps recently, such as the extension of visa-free access for Hong Kong visitors to Canada and the release of an information brochure to serve as a guide for Canadians and dual nationals visiting or resident in Hong Kong. We look forward to continuing this co-operative approach."

Mr. Axworthy officially launched the new publication, which outlines the conditions of entry and residency in Hong Kong after the territory's transition to Chinese sovereignty, in Toronto on March 24.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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March 26, 1997

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No. 63

STEWART VISITS KENYA AND SOUTH AFRICA

Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) Christine Stewart visited Kenya and South Africa from March 21 to 26. It was Mrs. Stewart's first official visit to Kenya, and included a full range of discussions aimed at furthering Canada's bilateral relations with Kenya.

In Nairobi, Mrs. Stewart met President Daniel Arap Moi, Vice President George Saitoti and Minister of Foreign Affairs Kalonzo Musyoka as well as representatives of the human rights community and reform-minded political and business figures. She and President Moi discussed the conflict in the African Great Lakes region. Kenya has played a pivotal role in regional negotiations on this issue.

While in South Africa, Mrs. Stewart met with government ministers and senior officials as part of Canada's ongoing discussions with South Africa on the Great Lakes conflict, land mines and other common agenda items. She also attended meetings on Canadian bilateral and partnership programs in South Africa.

"Canada values greatly South Africa's perspectives and suggestions on issues critical to the region. With the ongoing strife in Central Africa, it is essential to enhance our dialogue whenever possible as we search for a means to lessen human suffering," Mrs. Stewart said.

Secretary of State Stewart was accompanied to Kenya and South Africa by a Canadian business delegation representing the telecommunications sector. "We hope to see increasing Canadian company involvement in this sector as these countries' economies continue to grow," said Mrs. Stewart.

Mrs. Stewart took part in the Tel.Com '97 Telecommunications Conference and Exhibition in Johannesburg. She met South African Minister for Posts and Communications Jay Naidoo and joined him in some of the Tel.Com '97 activities. In Cape Town, Mrs. Stewart was the keynote speaker at the Canada-South Africa Trade and Investment Seminar and met the Premier of the Western Cape, Hernus Kriel.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca



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ER News Release

March 27, 1997

No. 64

MARKET ACCESS REPORT OUTLINES CANADA'S TRADE PRIORITIES

The Honourable Art Eggleton, Minister for International Trade, today released a report on Canada's priorities for gaining better access to foreign markets for Canadian businesses.

"This report outlines our game-plan for helping Canadian companies compete on an improved playing field in key foreign markets," said Mr. Eggleton. "Better access to foreign markets means more opportunities for Canadian exporters and investors and more jobs for Canadians."

The report, Canada's International Market Access Priorities — 1997, describes how Canada is seeking improved access for goods, services and investments in several important markets. The document covers multilateral and regional trade liberalization initiatives and specific market access issues in several key markets, including the United States. The individual markets covered in the report accounted for over 95 per cent of Canada's record \$314 billion worth of goods and services exports in 1996.

"Trade liberalization through the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the North American Free Trade Agreement has stimulated growth in Canada's trade in recent years," said Mr. Eggleton. "We have taken further steps to enhance trade in the last year through new free trade agreements with Chile and Israel."

The report also notes that Canada is involved in important multilateral negotiations on investment within the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. The objective is to gain greater protection and to reduce barriers for Canadian direct investment in other countries.

As well, Canada is making use of the WTO dispute settlement system in an effort to resolve some trade disputes with other countries. And the government is pursuing other activities to deal with trade and investment barriers erected by partners ranging from the United States to the European Union.

The new report replaces the Register of U.S. Barriers to Trade, which was issued annually by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade since 1993.

Improving market access is a key element of Canada's strategy for assisting Canadian exporters and investors in foreign markets. Canada's International Market Access Priorities follows the Minister for International Trade's report to Parliament on March 19, 1997, on the government's international business development activities. A paper on Canada's overall trade policy agenda will be released later this spring.

The report is available on DFAIT's web site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca. It also may be obtained by contacting the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's InfoCentre at 1-800-267-8376 (toll-free), or, in the Ottawa area, at 944-4000.

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A backgrounder on the highlights of the report is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Backgrounder

CANADA'S INTERNATIONAL MARKET ACCESS PRIORITIES - 1997 HIGHLIGHTS

With exports of goods and services now accounting for 40 per cent of Canada's gross domestic product, the country's economic well-being depends on preserving and enhancing access to foreign markets. Canada has been successful in securing improved and more predictable access to the United States and other key markets, and will continue to work for improved and expanded coverage of international rules governing trade and investment. Better access to foreign markets means more opportunities for Canadian firms, producing jobs and growth at home.

Canada's International Market Access Priorities - 1997, presents priorities for further improving access for goods, services and investments to key markets through multilateral, regional and bilateral initiatives. Its geographic scope includes the United States, important regional initiatives in the Asia Pacific, Europe and Latin America, and several other key markets.

Although the individual markets covered in the report accounted for over 95 per cent of Canadian exports in 1996, the document is not intended as an exhaustive catalogue of government activities to improve market access, nor as a comprehensive inventory of foreign barriers to trade. The report succeeds the Register of U.S. Barriers to Trade, prepared by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade annually since 1993.

Canada's International Market Access Priorities covers the following:

World Trade Organization (WTO)

To improve opportunities for Canadian business, Canada will be active through the full range of activities of the WTO, the cornerstone of the world trading system. For example, Canada has invoked the WTO's strengthened dispute settlement mechanism to challenge the European Union's ban on imports of meat derived from livestock treated with growth-promoting hormones, and Australia's ban on imports of uncooked salmon. Canada is also participating in accession negotiations with China, Chinese Taipei (Taiwan), Russia and other important markets seeking to join the WTO. Canada will work to ensure that they join the WTO on terms that strengthen the world trading system and produce tangible benefits to Canadian traders and investors.

North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

Working with the United States and Mexico, Canada will continue to seek accelerated tariff reductions where it serves Canadian interests, and will pursue additional initiatives to streamline cross-border commerce.

United States of America

Canada will:

- protect and enhance access to the U.S. market by exercising its rights under existing trade agreements and resisting U.S. measures that constrain Canada's access to its most important trading partner;
- continue to closely monitor and, if necessary, challenge key legislative and other developments that have an impact on the trading environment;
- continue to defend Canadian cultural policies in the face of U.S. challenges, and to protect the growing importance of the U.S. market to Canada's cultural community;
- work closely with the United States to introduce a number of concrete steps to create a "smart" border that facilitates trade and tourism, but keeps illegal goods and services out; and
- pursue a range of other initiatives to advance Canadian market access objectives in other areas, such as trade remedies, services, and government procurement.

Mexico

Canada will continue to seek improved access in a number of areas, including agricultural products, trucking, telecommunications, financial services and government procurement.

Other Major Markets

Canada will:

- continue to seek the elimination of a range of European
 Union tariff and non-tariff barriers affecting products such as fur, cereals, asbestos, and aluminum;
- urge Japan to modify a range of measures affecting, primarily, Canadian exports of agri-food products and building products and housing;

- make telecommunications products, agri-food and beverage products and investment its market access priorities for Korea;
- seek improved access to the Indian market in areas such as telecommunications and through the phase-out of balance-ofpayments import restrictions; and
- look forward to continued, excellent access to the Hong Kong market after the July 1, 1997, transfer to the People's Republic of China.

New Free Trade Agreements

Canadian business will have significantly enhanced access to the **Chilean** market upon implementation of the Canada-Chile Free Trade Agreement on June 2, 1997. Under the recently implemented Canada-**Israel** Free Trade Agreement, Canada now enjoys a level playing field in that market with its competitors.

Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) Negotiations

In these negotiations, scheduled to conclude in May 1997, Canada is seeking greater protection for Canadian direct investments in other countries and the reduction of barriers to investment. The MAI should also increase the attractiveness of Canada as an investment location.

Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC)

In 1997, which is also Canada's Year of Asia Pacific, Canada chairs this 18-member forum that promotes economic co-operation on the Pacific Rim. To improve access for Canadian traders and investors to these fast-growing markets, Canada will pursue several initiatives, including the harmonization and simplification of customs procedures.

Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)

Canada will continue to be a strong proponent of this initiative which is seeking to achieve free trade among 34 countries of the hemisphere by 2005. Canada aims to see negotiations launched by 1998.



April 9, 1997

No. 65

NATO SECRETARY GENERAL TO VISIT CANADA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Minister of National Defence Douglas Young today announced that His Excellency Javier Solana, Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), will be in Ottawa on April 10 and 11.

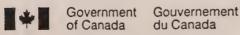
"NATO is at a pivotal stage in its evolution and Canada, along with other Allies, has vital decisions to make over the next few months, including which countries to invite to join the Alliance, " said Minister Axworthy. "I am looking forward to my discussions with Mr. Solana and to hearing from him regarding his meetings with Russian Foreign Minister Primakov."

"The NATO Alliance is currently addressing a number of major issues, and Canada is committed to working with its partners to help address these challenges including NATO's role in peacekeeping missions, " said Minister Young. "Mr. Solana is playing a key negotiating role in this transition period, and I look forward to discussing the ongoing progress and benefiting from his insights on the complex issues involved."

This will be Mr. Solana's second trip to Canada as NATO Secretary General since assuming his position in December 1995; he previously visited Ottawa in February, 1996. During this visit he will meet with Ministers Axworthy and Young as well as parliamentarians, academics and other Canadians concerned with transatlantic security. Ministers Axworthy and Young will also discuss NATO relations with Ukraine and the Stabilization Force in Bosnia with Mr. Solana.

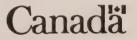
Mr. Solana has been meeting with ministers and officials of NATO member countries over the past several months as the Alliance prepares for the key decision on expanded membership.

Canada is one of 16 members of NATO, which was created in 1949 to provide collective transatlantic security. Although its focus has changed since the end of the Cold War, NATO continues to play a high-profile role in European peace and security. Canada has participated in peacekeeping operations in the Balkans since 1992



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and currently has 1250 personnel serving with the NATO-led Stabilization Force (SFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca



TEUS Release

April 10, 1997

No. 66

MINISTER BOUDRIA OFFICIALLY LAUNCHES THE FIRST CONFÉRENCE DES MINISTRES FRANCOPHONES CHARGÉS DES INFOROUTES

The Honourable Don Boudria, Minister for International Cooperation and Minister Responsible for la Francophonie, will chair the first Conférence des Ministres francophones chargés des inforoutes, which is scheduled to take place in Canada, more precisely in Montreal, from May 19 to 21.

Minister Boudria launched this event with the Quebec Minister of Culture and Communications, Louise Beaudoin, and the Secretary-General of the Agence de la Francophonie, Jean-Louis Roy.

"Canada is proud to host this first conference in Montreal. The information highway is the way of the future for all of us, especially youth. It is important that French be given a dynamic and proactive presence on it," said Minister Boudria.

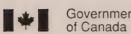
The Canadian government will contribute \$500 000, both directly and indirectly, to this conference.

"Canada is already known as a world leader in the field of new information technologies for French, and we must pursue our efforts to guarantee that la Francophonie will occupy a fair share of the information highway," added Minister Boudria.

The Canadian government will priorize three of the elements that will be part of the action plan to be submitted at the Conference: the democratization of access to the information highway, remote training programs, and the creation of a funding program for production to facilitate the creation and flow of information.

Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 1997 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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Official Spokesperson
Office of the Minister for International Co-operation
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CORRECTED VERSION

April 11, 1997

No. 67

CANADA SIGNS INVESTMENT AND CONSULAR AGREEMENTS WITH LEBANON

The Governments of Canada and Lebanon today signed a Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPA) and a Declaration of Intent for a Consular and Humanitarian Agreement in Ottawa as part of the official visit of Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al-Hariri to Canada.

Minister for International Trade Art Eggleton and Lebanon's Minister of State for Financial Affairs, Mr. Fouad Sanioura, signed the FIPA, which is expected to enhance the confidence of Canadian companies investing in Lebanon. A FIPA is designed to promote and protect foreign investment through legally binding rights and obligations.

"The signing of this agreement represents Canada's strong commitment to further expand our commercial ties with Lebanon," said Mr. Eggleton. "It reflects Canada's support for Lebanon's reconstruction efforts by fostering increased bilateral investment."

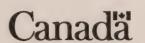
A Declaration of Intent was also signed between Canada and Lebanon to negotiate an agreement regarding co-operation on consular and humanitarian matters.

"A consular agreement with Lebanon will assist in dealing with the issue of child custody and child abduction," said Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, who witnessed the signing. "The agreement is intended to create a framework for addressing and sharing information on child abduction cases. We are hopeful that we will be able to conclude this agreement by the end of the year."

In addition to the signing of these agreements, Canada is hosting the Canada-Lebanon Partnership 1997 business conference in



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Montreal on April 14, 1997. This conference will allow Lebanese government and business members to liaise with Canadian business people to explore the commercial and investment opportunities in Lebanon's reconstruction market.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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April 11, 1997

No. 68

AXWORTHY EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER IRANIAN GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN MYKONOS CASE

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today expressed deep concern regarding yesterday's verdict of a German court in connection with the "Mykonos" case. The judgement stated that the highest levels of the Iranian state were implicated in the killings of four Iranian Kurds in the Mykonos restaurant in Berlin, Germany, in 1992.

"This verdict is being carefully reviewed by the Canadian government," said Mr. Axworthy. "It is not acceptable that Iran or any other country attack an opponent on foreign soil."

Canada has been consulting with its European Union, G-7 and other partners regarding these latest developments. To help assess the implications of the verdict, Canada's Ambassador to Iran has been recalled to Ottawa for consultations, which will take place over the next few days.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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The News Release

April 14, 1997

No. 69

EGGLETON WELCOMES LAUNCH OF CANADA-LEBANON WEB SITE

Minister for International Trade Art Eggleton today welcomed the launch of a Canada-Lebanon Internet Web site designed to assist Canadian firms interested in exporting to Lebanon. Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al-Hariri and Minister of Human Resources Development Pierre Pettigrew were present at the ceremonial launch in Montreal.

"This Web site offers quick and easy access to information on opportunities available to Canadian business in the Lebanese market," said Mr. Eggleton. "It demonstrates Canada's strong commitment to Lebanon's reconstruction efforts."

The inauguration of the Web site took place at the Canada-Lebanon Partnership 1997 business conference being held in Montreal today. Prime Minister Al-Hariri will meet with Canadian business people at the conference.

The Internet site, offering business and trade information, as well as information on development assistance, is located on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Web site at http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/~lebanon-liban/menu-e.htm.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Nicole Bourget Director of Communications Office of the Minister for International Trade (613) 992-7332

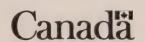
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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait.maeci.gc.ca



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April 15, 1997

No. 71

EGGLETON TO LEAD TRADE MISSION TO ITALY

Minister for International Trade Art Eggleton announced today that, from April 16 to 19, he will lead a trade mission to Italy comprising representatives from some 20 Canadian companies. The Canadian delegation will visit Rome, Milan and Parma.

The primary objectives of this trade mission to Italy, the first since 1989, are to strengthen Canada-Italy bilateral, economic and trade relations and to encourage Italian companies to take advantage of the benefits afforded by Canada as a gateway to the North American Free Trade Agreement and an attractive country for investors.

"International trade is an important part of the Canadian government's job creation strategy," said Mr. Eggleton. "Italian business circles must be given a greater appreciation of what Canada has to offer in high technology, especially in telecommunications and related products, where numerous opportunities for co-operation and strategic alliances exist."

During the visit, co-operation agreements in the field of telecommunications and in the industrial sector are expected to be signed. In addition, meetings between Italian and Canadian business people are anticipated. Investment promotion and increasing trade in the aerospace and finance sectors are also program priorities.

"The groundwork for this visit has been laid with a coherent series of bilateral trade policies and clearly delineated priorities for gaining access to the markets, all of which will help to make our companies competitive on the international markets," concluded Mr. Eggleton.

International trade development programs and initiatives help Canadian companies to prepare for exporting by giving them access to financial services, market information and key exporting programs.

A list of the trade delegation members is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Nicole Bourget Director of Communications Office of the Minister for International Trade (613) 992-7332

Media Relations Office .
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

Visit of the Honourable Art Eggleton Minister for International Trade to Italy April 16-19, 1997

Business Delegation

ACIC Canada Inc., Mississauga, Ontario Alliance of Manufacturers and Exporters of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario Banca Commerciale Italiana of Canada, Toronto, Ontario CAE Electronics Ltd., Saint-Laurent, Quebec Cable-Lock Connectors Ltd., Etobicoke, Ontario Canadair, Amphibious Aircraft Division (Bombardier Inc.), Montreal, Quebec Canadian Astronautics Ltd. (CAL), Ottawa, Ontario Canadian Tourism Commission, Ottawa, Ontario Corel Corporation, Ottawa, Ontario Corriere Canadese, Toronto, Ontario Fazzari & Partners, Vaughan, Ontario Gleanayre Electronics, Vancouver, British Columbia Harris Farinon Division (Canada), Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Quebec L. Leone Pharmacy, Downsview, Ontario Montreal Italian Chamber of Commerce, Montreal, Quebec Newbridge Networks Corp., Kanata, Ontario Nortel (Northern Telecom) Corp., Lachine, Quebec Paul Pelligrini, Toronto, Ontario Pizza Nova Take Out Ltd., Scarborough, Ontario RBC Dominion Securities Int'l Inc., London, United Kingdom Rosati Dizio, North York, Ontario Téléfilm Canada, Montreal, Quebec Téléglobe Inc., Montreal, Quebec Varone Group Inc., North York, Ontario





EA News Release

April 17, 1997

No. 72

AXWORTHY ANNOUNCES IDRC APPOINTMENTS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced the immediate appointment of Ms. Maureen O'Neil as President of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the reappointment of Ms. Jocelyne Côté-O'Hara to the Board of Governors of the IDRC.

A graduate in sociology from Carleton University, Ms. O'Neil has spent a good part of her professional life in the areas of public policy, research, policy analysis and development. She has worked for a number of government departments and agencies. She served as President of the North South Institute (a non-governmental policy research organization) from 1989 to 1995, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Citizenship of Ontario from 1987 to 1989, Secretary-General of the Canadian Human Rights Commission from 1986 to 1987, and as Co-ordinator of Status of Women Canada from 1978 to 1986. From 1993 to 1995, she served as Chair of the Board of Governors of Carleton University. Ms. O'Neil has also served as Chair of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development. Since 1995, she has also been a partner with the Institute on Governance.

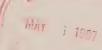
Ms. Côté-O'Hara is presently director of several private sector corporations and serves as a consultant and advisor to national-and community-level public policy organizations. Until recently, she was a senior executive in the telecommunications industry. From 1992 to 1996, she was President and Chief Executive Officer of Stentor Telecom Policy Inc. She was previously Vice-President, Government Relations, for B.C. Tel. Ms. Côté-O'Hara also served as Special Advisor to the Chairman of Petro-Canada International Assistance Corporation and has held senior positions with various federal and provincial government departments. She worked as a financial analyst at the Treasury Board of Canada, where she was responsible for various government investments including those of Teleglobe and Telesat.

The International Development Research Centre is a public corporation created by the Parliament of Canada in 1970 to help developing-country scientists and communities find solutions to



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social, economic and environmental problems through research. By bringing together people, institutions and ideas, IDRC tries to ensure that the benefits of this research will be shared equitably among all its partners in the North and the South.

IDRC is directed by an international Board of Governors, consisting of 11 Canadian members and 10 non-Canadian members.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Catherine Lappe Director of Communications Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (613) 995-1851

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874



CAI EA

News Release

April 17, 1997

No. 73

CANADA APPOINTS A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ON CYPRUS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced the appointment of Mr. Michael R. Bell as Special Representative of the Minister on Cyprus.

"I believe that the current environment offers a special opportunity to make progress on the Cyprus issue in light of envisaged discussions for an eventual accession of Cyprus to the European Union," said Mr. Axworthy. "This appointment is aimed at demonstrating the keen interest we continue to have for the future of Cyprus and Canada's commitment to support the UN peace effort."

Canada contributed troops to the UN peacekeeping operations on the island from March 1964 until June 1993.

As Special Representative, Mr. Bell will initiate discussions with the parties to the conflict as well as with other countries and organizations that are in a position to help reach a peaceful settlement. He will also provide an evaluation of the situation and present the views of the Canadian government.

Mr. Bell will support efforts by the United Nations to foster a solution to the conflict in Cyprus. He will encourage all parties to co-operate with the UN and reach a final agreement.

- 30 -

A biographical note is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

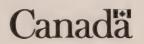
Catherine Lappe Director of Communications Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (613) 995-1851

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca



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Biographical Note

Michael R. Bell (B. Com [Economics], Queen's University, 1961). Born in Montreal, Quebec, Mr. Bell joined the Department of External Affairs in 1961 and served abroad in Olso (1962-65), London (1965-69), Lima (1969-71), Madrid (1971-75), and Moscow (1979-81). In 1981, Mr. Bell returned to Lima as Ambassador. He was named Ambassador to Moscow in 1990 and to The Hague in 1993. In Ottawa, Mr. Bell held a number of positions including Assistant Deputy Minister, Latin America and Caribbean Branch and later Assistant Deputy Minister, Special Projects. In 1996, Mr. Bell was appointed Special Representative on NATO Enlargement. Mr. Bell is married to Christine Bell and they have two children.

EN IVEUS Release

April 21, 1997

No. 74

"QUAD" TRADE MINISTERS TO MEET IN TORONTO

The Honourable Art Eggleton, Minister for International Trade, announced today that ministers responsible for international trade from the United States, Japan and the European Union will meet in Toronto from April 30 to May 2, 1997, to discuss key world trade issues.

The ministers attending the Quadrilateral Trade Ministers' Meeting, known as the "Quad," will consider such matters as the current agenda for trade negotiations under the World Trade Organization (WTO), regional trade initiatives, and integrating the least developed countries into the global trading system. Joining Mr. Eggleton, who will chair the meeting, will be U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky, Japan's Minister for International Trade and Industry Shinji Sato, and Sir Leon Brittan, Vice-President of the European Commission and Commissioner Responsible for Commercial Policy.

"We must keep the momentum going on liberalizing trade and investment," said Mr. Eggleton. "As major trading nations, we must give leadership, as well, on new and emerging trade issues. More open and competitive markets encourage trade, stimulating economic growth and job creation."

The Quad was created in 1982 as an informal forum for discussing trade issues.

The Toronto Quad meeting will be held at the King Edward Hotel. There will be media facilities in the hotel. A backgrounder and details on media accreditation and facilities are attached.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Nicole Bourget
Director of Communications
Office of the Minister for International Trade
(613) 992-7332

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca



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BACKGROUNDER

The Quad

- The Quadrilateral Trade Ministers' Meeting, an informal forum created in 1982 to explore major trade and investment issues, is an important consultative mechanism. The Quad trade ministers from Canada, Japan, the European Union, and the United States meet twice a year.
- One purpose of the Quad is to see how key trade and investment matters can be moved forward. It was instrumental in achieving significant progress leading to the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

Toronto: Issues

Among the items the Quad ministers are likely to discuss are:

- The current World Trade Organization (WTO) agenda following decisions taken at the first WTO ministerial meeting in Singapore in December 1996. This includes further trade liberalization in financial services. Negotiations on a new financial services agreement began the week of April 7.
- Progress on new issues such as competition policy and investment. The Singapore ministerial conference agreed to establish working groups to examine links between trade and investment and trade and competition policy.
- The relationship between regional trade initiatives, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement, the Free Trade Area of the Americas and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC), and the multilateral trading system.
- Integrating the least-developed countries into the global trading system. Canada has proposed a conference later this year to consider how to help these countries take advantage of trade opportunities. The conference would involve the WTO, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the International Trade Centre.

QUADRILATERAL TRADE MINISTERS' MEETING KING EDWARD HOTEL TORONTO, ONTARIO APRIL 30-MAY 2, 1997

Application for Media Accreditation

All media representatives wishing to cover the Quad will require a pass in order to gain access to the media facilities, which will be provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

Accreditation is open to all bona fide news gathering agencies. Freelance media representatives must be sponsored by a recognized news agency and attach a letter of assignment. The attached application form should be completed and sent to the address noted below by Friday, April 25. Passes will be available as of 9:00 a.m. on April 30 in the Media Centre, located in Boardrooms A and B, Mezzanine level, of the King Edward Hotel. The Media Centre will be equipped with telephones/fax facilities (personal charges for long distance usage) and computer power sources.

Media Activities

The meetings commence on Thursday, May 1, and will conclude around noon on May 2. Current plans, which are subject to adjustment, call for a photo opportunity at 9:00 a.m. on May 1. A media debriefing will be held on May 1 at 5:30 p.m. A press conference will be given by ministers representing the European Commission, the United States, Japan and Canada on Friday, May 2, at noon. This will conclude the official program.

Accommodation

A range of possibilities are available in downtown Toronto including:

<u>Hotel</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>Fax</u>
Royal York	(416) 368-2511	(416) 368-2884
Sheraton Centre	(416) 361-1000	(416) 947-4874
Crown Plaza	(416) 597-1400	(416) 597-8128

Hotel reservations and all charges including telephone/fax charges are the responsibility of media representatives.

Requests for additional information and submission of accreditation applications should be directed to:

Charles Larabie
Deputy Director
Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2
Telephone: (613) 995-1874
Fax: (613) 995-1405



QUADRILATERAL TRADE MINISTERS' MEETING KING EDWARD HOTEL TORONTO, ONTARIO APRIL 30-MAY 2, 1997

APPLICATION FOR MEDIA ACCREDITATION

FAMILY NAME			
FIRST NAME			
AGENCY			
TELEPHONE FAX			
CATEGORY: () JOURNALIST			
() PHOTOGRAPHER () CAMERAMAN () TECHNICIAN () OTHER (SPECIFY)			
FOR NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA:			
DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH			
PASSPORT NO			
COUNTRY OF ISSUE			
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT			

APPROVAL OF EDITOR OR MANAGER





CAI

News Release

April 22, 1997

No. 75

AXWORTHY WELCOMES PARLIAMENTARIANS' ARCTIC REPORT

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today welcomed the release of the report Canada and the Circumpolar World, tabled by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade. The report lists 48 recommendations for the conduct of Canada's international Arctic relations.

"I welcome the Committee's strong endorsement of the Arctic Council and Canada's role therein. Under the excellent leadership of the Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs, Mary Simon, Canada looks forward to hosting a successful ministerial conference in 1998," said Mr. Axworthy. "The range of ideas and initiatives suggested by the Committee are indicative of their serious, thoughtful efforts, which have benefited from wide consultations, including with those living in the North."

Canada played a key role in the creation of the Arctic Council, which was inaugurated in Ottawa in September 1996. Canada is the first chair of the Arctic Council, hosting the Council Secretariat until 1998.

The Arctic Council brings together eight circumpolar countries: Canada, Denmark/Greenland, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States. The Council addresses environmental and sustainable development issues of the Arctic ecosystem, including the economic, social and cultural well-being of northern peoples. The Council is unique among international bodies for involving, on a permanent, integral basis, a representation of northern indigenous peoples as Permanent Participants.

"Canada insists on a strong role for northerners in its participation in the Arctic Council," said Minister for Indian Affairs and Northern Development Ron Irwin. "I am heartened by the Committee's commitment to listen to the views of northern communities."

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade will have 150 days to co-ordinate a response to the recommendations in the report, after careful consideration and in close consultation



with the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Minister of the Environment and others.

Copies of the report are available from the Clerk of the Committee at (613) 996-1533.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

CAI EA -CSS

News Release

April 22, 1997

No. 76

DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENT

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced the following diplomatic appointment:

Donald W. Smith, Director of the Legal Advisory Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, as Ambassador to the Republic of Croatia.

Biographical Note

Donald W. Smith (BA, University of Calgary, 1966; LLB, University of Alberta, 1969), born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, joined the Department of External Affairs in 1969 and served abroad in Cairo, Dublin and London. In Ottawa, he was assigned to divisions concerned with Africa and the Middle East and with United Nations Political and Institutional Affairs. The greater part of his headquarters career has taken place in the Legal Bureau, where he has served as Deputy Director of both the Legal Operations and the Legal Advisory Divisions. In 1979/80, he took leave from the Department to work as a lawyer with the firm of Harris and Co. in Calgary. Between 1980 and 1982 he was Head of the Environmental Law Section of the Legal Operations Division. Since 1991, Mr. Smith has been Director of the Legal Advisory Division. Mr. Smith is married to Elizabeth Ann Smith and they have two daughters, Jennifer and Fiona. He succeeds Graham Green.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

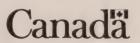
Catherine Lappe Director of Communications Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (613) 995-1851

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April 22, 1997

No. 77

CANADA AND BRAZIL STRENGTHEN CO-OPERATION ON PEACEKEEPING, TRADE

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and International Trade Minister Art Eggleton announced today that Canada and Brazil will work to strengthen co-operation on peacekeeping and expand their trade relations.

The announcement comes during a state visit to Canada by Brazilian President Fernando Enrique Cardoso. The President is visiting Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal, accompanied by a 90-member business delegation.

"Canada and Brazil share many ideas and approaches on regional issues, such as peacekeeping, UN Reform and democracy," said Mr. Axworthy. "The agreements we have reached will encourage the continuation of positive reform throughout South America."

"The time is right to expand and increase our trade relations with South America," said Mr. Eggleton. "South America is a vast, dynamic market that holds enormous opportunities for Canadian companies. Closer links with Brazil and other Mercosur members will help create jobs in Canada."

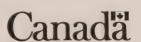
The agreements include:

- An agreement to begin negotiations on a Foreign Investment Protection Agreement in 1997;
- An exchange of notes that ratifies a nuclear co-operation agreement signed in 1996;
- An agreement for Brazil to enter Canada's Military Training Assistance Program, including training for Brazilian peacekeepers;
- A letter of intent to encourage closer co-operation on policing;



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- An exchange of notes ratifying changes to a technical co-operation agreement, signed by the Minister for International Co-operation and Minister Responsible for la Francophonie, Don Boudria;
- An agreement on communications, signed by Industry Minister John Manley, to encourage both nations to share approaches on the transition to an information society.

In a major private sector deal, ALCAN Aluminum Ltd. announced its intention to invest approximately \$500 million in Brazil over the next three years to expand and modernize its aluminum rolling operations.

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April 23, 1997

No. 78

AXWORTHY ANNOUNCES CHILD LABOUR CHALLENGE FUND

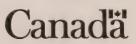
Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced the creation of the Child Labour Challenge Fund to support Canadian private sector initiatives aimed at addressing exploitive child labour internationally. The Minister was providing an interim verbal response to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade, which tabled its report on child labour in February of this year.

"Canada has made children's rights, a priority at home and abroad, and has taken concrete measures to address child labour in particular. But child labour is not just an area for government action; there is a need for market-based solutions. This fund will help build partnerships with the private sector and will support their efforts in taking an active role to make creative and productive contributions to solving the problems of exploitive child labour, " said Mr. Axworthy.

The federal government will provide matching funds to establish partnerships with the private sector in supporting projects such as the development of voluntary guidelines, codes of conduct and consumer labelling practices. Project proposals will be considered by an advisory committee chaired by Senator Landon Pearson, Minister Axworthy's special advisor on children's issues. The committee will also include two business representatives, as well as one from labour and one from the NGO community.

"It is encouraging to see that many larger Canadian corporations are developing their own voluntary codes of conduct. However, there are many small and medium-sized companies that are unable to afford such an undertaking on their own," added Mr. Axworthy. "This fund will help alleviate that problem and enable those businesses to participate actively in the fight against exploitive child labour."

Canada considers exploitive child labour to be that which contravenes the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which ensures the right "to be protected from economic



exploitation and from performing work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development."

Minister Axworthy has also asked Heads of Canadian Missions abroad to provide him with input and ideas on how to more effectively tackle the socio-economic and cultural challenges of exploitive child labour.

Up to \$200 000 annually will be made available over the next two years to support projects under this program as part of Canada's overall approach to combatting exploitive child labour. The Canadian International Development Agency plays an important role in this effort through its programs aimed at reducing poverty and meeting basic human needs. Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 1997 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

-30-

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Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

April 23, 1997

No. 79

NEW DIRECTOR APPOINTED TO EDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Honourable Art Eggleton, Minister for International Trade, today announced the appointment of Marcel Dufour as a Director on the Export Development Corporation (EDC) Board. He replaces Mr. Jacques Laurent and will hold the position for a two-year period, which takes effect immediately. Mr. Dufour, presently retired, was formerly a senior advisor at SNC-Lavalin of Montreal, Quebec.

"The knowledge and expertise that Mr. Dufour has gained in the field of international business will prove to be an asset to the Corporation," said Mr. Eggleton. "He is a welcome addition to the EDC Board of Directors."

EDC helps Canadian exporters compete in world markets by providing a wide range of financial and risk management services, including export credit insurance, financing to foreign buyers of Canadian goods and services, and guarantees. EDC is a financially self-sustaining Crown Corporation that operates on commercial principles and reports to Parliament through the Minister for International Trade.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874









April 29, 1997

No. 80

OECD SECRETARY-GENERAL TO VISIT CANADA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Minister for International Trade Art Eggleton today announced that Donald Johnston, Secretary-General of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), will visit Ottawa April 30 and May 1, and Toronto May 1-2.

This will be Mr. Johnston's first visit to Canada as Secretary-General of the OECD, continuing the practice of annual visits to Canada by the OECD Secretary-General. While in Ottawa, he will participate in round tables on finance, social affairs and employment, and electronic commerce. In Toronto, Mr. Johnston will meet with Mr. Eggleton and speak at the University of Toronto's Centre for International Studies and at a Canadian Club luncheon.

The OECD Secretary-General visits member countries annually to discuss the state of their economies. While in Canada, Mr. Johnston will review recent developments in the Canadian economy, discuss Canadian priorities within the Organization and exchange views in anticipation of the annual OECD Ministers' Meeting in Paris, which will take place May 26-27.

The OECD is a key international economic organization whose work contributes to Canada's economic, trade, and social policy development, and promotes co-operation among the major industrialized countries. Mr. Johnston, the first non-European to hold position of OECD Secretary-General, was elected by consensus in 1995. Since taking office in 1996, he has launched a broad process of organizational and administrative reform to make the OECD more focussed, relevant, efficient and effective as it heads into the 21st century.

- 30 -



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April 30, 1997

No. 81

CANADA WELCOMES ENTRY INTO FORCE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today welcomed the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and reiterated Canada's commitment to this important convention.

"The Chemical Weapons Convention is a landmark in the history of global disarmament efforts. It is the first convention to completely prohibit an entire class of weapons of mass destruction and provide for a comprehensive verification regime. However, entry into force is a beginning not an end. There is much work to do to ensure that the CWC fulfils the expectations that we and others have placed in it, " said Mr. Axworthy.

"Canada will continue to support the CWC and encourage all countries that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so as soon as possible. We particularly welcome the recent ratification by the United States and strongly encourage the Russian Federation, the only other state to openly declare it has chemical weapons, to ratify as well, " added the Minister.

The Convention was negotiated and opened for signature in 1993. Canada signed the CWC that year and ratified on September 26, 1995. The CWC entered into force on April 29, 1997, six months after the 65th state, Hungary, ratified. The Convention prohibits States Parties from producing and using chemical weapons and restricts their trade in any chemicals that could be used as chemical weapons or to make them. It further obliges States Parties to make declarations concerning their use of scheduled chemicals and to allow international teams to investigate facilities that could be used to covertly produce chemical weapons.

There are now 165 signatories to the Convention, 87 of whom have ratified and are now States Parties. Convention signatories will meet for a Conference in the Hague beginning on May 6, where States Parties will establish the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the body that will oversee implementation of the CWC. Canada's delegation will be led by the Honourable Gildas Molgat, Speaker of the Senate.

- 30 -



For further information, media representatives may contact:

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-Es Meus Release

May 2, 1997

No. 82

30th QUADRILATERAL TRADE MINISTERS' MEETING TORONTO, APRIL 30 - MAY 2, 1997

CHAIR'S STATEMENT

Minister for International Trade Art Eggleton today issued the following statement as Chair of the 30th Quadrilateral Trade Ministers' meeting in Toronto. Also attending the meeting were Charlene Barshefsky, U.S. Trade Representative, Shinji Sato, Japan's Minister for International Trade and Industry, and Sir Leon Brittan, Vice President of the European Commission and Commissioner Responsible for Commercial Policy.

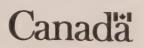
STATEMENT BY MINISTER EGGLETON

Ministers from Canada, the European Union, Japan and the United States met in Toronto for the 30th Quadrilateral Meeting to review developments in international trade since the Singapore Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and to consider future directions in international trade in an evolving world economy.

We noted that the rules-based international trading system enshrined in the Agreement Establishing the WTO, has successfully contributed to remarkable growth in trade in goods and services and in international investment, and thereby to economic growth and employment in member countries. We therefore affirmed our strong support for the WTO as a global forum for ongoing liberalization, consultation and discussion, and examined in detail implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements, the current work program of the WTO, including both the pre-existing built-in agenda and additional, work assigned to the WTO at Singapore, and prospects for future progress. We also affirmed our belief that the WTO should enjoy universal participation; we thus confirmed our support for the early accession of applicants on commercially viable terms in a manner that preserves the integrity of WTO rules. We encourage those acceding to move



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their negotiations forward as quickly as possible, including on market access for goods and services.

We agreed that full implementation of existing WTO obligations ensures the certainty and predictability essential for traders and investors. We discussed developments that could carry significant implications for the trading system. In this regard, we look forward to reviewing plans for removal of balance-of-payment restrictions on imports at upcoming consultations in Geneva, and agreed to exercise continued vigilance respecting trade-related investment measures of certain countries that appear to contravene WTO disciplines.

We reviewed the WTO's ambitious built-in agenda for further negotiations, such as those called for in agriculture and services, and reviews, such as those to be undertaken on technical barriers to trade and sanitary and phytosanitary measures, in accordance with agreed timeframes. We acknowledged that fulfilling this mandate requires the commitment of all WTO members to engage in the necessary analysis and exchange of information, and to anticipate developments in commerce and technology that may affect international trade. Building on our earlier initiatives in support of transparency, including through de-restriction of documents and domestic consultations, we invite the Director General to consult with members regarding appropriate means for encouraging informal dialogue between WTO working groups and committees to engage business, nongovernmental organizations and other interested parties, in the belief that such dialogue will contribute to broader understanding of and support for the WTO, and to ensuring the responsiveness of WTO activities.

Given the importance of financial infrastructure to all economic sectors in support of growth and development, ministers welcomed the agreement of the WTO Financial Services Committee on a timetable aimed at concluding the recently relaunched negotiations by mid-December. To this end, it was agreed that the Quad should table requests by mid-June and offers no later than the July 14 date established in the agreed timetable and to work with other countries to encourage them to do the same. The Quad resolved to work toward a full MFN agreement and with all participants to achieve significantly improved market access and national treatment commitments. It was recognized that flexibility may be required on transition periods for liberalization measures in certain circumstances.

Recalling our commitment at the WTO Singapore Ministerial Conference to the observance of internationally recognized core labour standards and recognizing the role of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in this regard, we look forward to further work in the ILO on core labour standards and on strengthening promotion, implementation and supervisory

procedures. We will encourage collaboration between the WTO and ILO secretariats and ensure that members of both organizations are kept informed of such collaboration.

We recalled the important items added to the WTO's agenda at the Singapore Ministerial Conference:

- We agreed that work should begin promptly in the Working Group on Trade and Competition to examine the interaction between trade and competition, and that a broader understanding of the benefits and key elements of an effective competition regime, including through active participation of competition experts and exchange of information, drawing as appropriate on the useful and complementary work already underway in the OECD, is an essential first step.
- We look forward to beginning a work program in the WTO Working Group on Trade and Investment this spring. In our view, a review of existing investment agreements and investment-related provisions of trade agreements and other exchange of information, drawing on the constructive work of UNCTAD in this area, will contribute to collective understanding of the direct relationship between trade and investment.
- We pledged to work together to moving WTO work forward on transparency in government procurement, and again agreed that a full exchange of information and analysis will provide an essential foundation for broad participation in this exercise.
- We affirmed our commitment to trade facilitation. In this regard, we agreed to intensify our efforts to complete work in the WTO Committee on Rules of Origin on non-preferential rules of origin and regarding customs valuation and preshipment inspection within the existing timeframes, of ensuring close co-operation between the WTO and the World Customs Organization, and of beginning analysis on simplification of trade procedures with a view to streamlining border requirements in a manner responsive to the needs of importers and exporters. We noted that complementary work underway under the auspices of the G-7 and in regional fora will also make an important contribution to ensuring that customs procedures facilitate access to markets.

We noted as well the significance of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) and the Agreement on Basic Telecommunications, which together liberalize approximately \$1 trillion in trade in goods and services. On the ITA, we will work together to broaden participation in the agreement, including by countries acceding

to the WTO. We will jointly pursue, in consultation with our private sectors, expansion of product coverage and review of non-tariff measures in the context of this fall's review of the agreement ("ITA II"), as well as problems of forced technology transfer that impede trade in technology-intensive products. On basic telecommunications, we urge all WTO members to ensure full and effective implementation of these agreements. We will work together with applicants for accession to the WTO in the development of their schedules of services commitments in this sector.

We intend to build on the momentum of the basic telecommunications services and Information Technology agreements by exploring all opportunities for further tariff liberalization and harmonization, including through acceleration of reductions of Uruguay Round commitments. We have asked our officials to consult with our private sectors on these issues, including possible coverage and definitional issues, and to report back to us on the results of their deliberations by mid-July.

We discussed the important role of the OECD in support of trade and investment liberalization and rule-making. Recognizing that a number of outstanding issues will require further work, we confirmed our commitment to concluding negotiations on a Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) by the time of the 1998 OECD Ministerial Meeting. We will continue to work together at the OECD to address the issue of bribery of foreign officials, which distorts markets, hinders economic development and undermines the democratic accountability of the rule of law essential to the effective functioning of the global economy. look forward later this month at the OECD Ministerial Meeting to taking further steps in criminalizing foreign commercial bribery and to assure enforcement to accompany national efforts to eliminate the tax deductibility of bribes paid to foreign officials and commitments undertaken in other fora, including the UN, to address this problem. We support fully the work of the OECD on regulatory reform, with its focus on good regulatory practices, and endorse peer review of regulatory policies in the interest of greater transparency. We encourage increased dialogue and collaboration between the OECD, the WTO and the International Standards Organization to reduce the rapid expansion of technical barriers to trade.

We exchanged views on the contribution that the WTO can make for the benefit of the least developed countries, and agreed to participate actively in preparations for the high-level WTO/UNCTAD/International Trade Centre meeting later this year to increase the capacity of those countries to enjoy the benefits that flow from increased trade and investment, including through increased co-ordination of technical assistance among national donor agencies and international institutions. We also discussed current programs, policies and proposals related to the least

developed countries, including work in the G-7 aimed at further integrating the economies in Africa into the trading system. We welcomed our respective commitments to exploring favourably opportunities to increase market access for the least developed countries through different means, and call on the most advanced developing countries to participate in this effort.

We also exchanged views and information on the various regional initiatives in which we are engaged. We reaffirmed the primacy of the multilateral trading system and our commitment at Singapore to ensuring that regional trade agreements are complementary to and consistent with WTO rules. We welcomed the constructive work undertaken to date by the WTO Committee on Regional Trade Agreements, and agreed to work together to expedite completion of it examination of agreements notified and to support further work on the systemic dimensions of regional trade agreements.

In an increasingly global economy, where the world trading system provides an essential vehicle for economic growth and jobs through increased exports of goods and services and investment opportunities abroad, and increased efficiency through foreign direct investment and increased competition at home in support of our national economic objectives, we affirmed our commitment to political engagement in the WTO at the ministerial level on an ongoing basis. We look forward to commemorating the 50th anniversary of the GATT — the predecessor of the WTO — in the first half of 1998, and to using that occasion to take stock of further progress and to reflect on future directions at a ministerial conference.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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ER News Release

May 5, 1997

No. 83

EGGLETON HOSTS APEC TRADE MINISTERS IN MONTREAL

The Honourable Art Eggleton, Minister for International Trade, will chair a meeting of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) ministers responsible for trade in Montreal from May 8 to 10. Several youth delegates from across Canada will also attend to gain first-hand insight into the APEC process.

This is the first in a series of ministerial meetings that Canada will chair to advance preparations for the APEC Leaders' Meeting in Vancouver, which the Prime Minister will host in November. Canada proposed that trade ministers meet to focus on, among other areas, facilitating trade by reducing the costs of doing business in the region.

"Establishing a better business environment to create jobs and support sustainable growth is a priority for Canada in APEC. That means more than eliminating tariffs. Bottom line, it means reducing business costs, especially for small and medium-sized business, by harmonizing standards, simplifying customs procedures and clarifying regulations," said Mr. Eggleton.

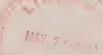
Trade ministers will also focus on their individual and collective plans for trade and investment liberalization and begin to identify possible sectors for early, voluntary liberalization. In addition, they will explore how APEC can offer further support to the ongoing work of the World Trade Organization (WTO). WTO Director General Renatto Ruggiero will join these discussions.

To gain insight into private sector priorities this year, ministers will also receive an interim report from the APEC Business Advisory Council and the results of the APEC Customs/Industry Symposium being held May 7 to 9. A trade exhibition, organized by Revenue Canada and the Chamber of Commerce, is being held in conjunction with the Symposium.

"I am pleased that, in full Team Canada spirit, all levels of government, the private sector and sponsors have combined efforts to bring Asia Pacific to Montreal," said Mr. Eggleton. "This is



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an exciting opportunity to show our Asia Pacific partners all that Canada has to offer as a business partner and as an excellent place in which to invest, travel and study."

As part of Canada's Year of Asia Pacific (CYAP), other events are being held in Montreal, including the Conférence de Montreal (May 11 to 13), an annual business conference that will feature high-profile guest speakers and provide an in-depth analysis of the challenges and opportunities of doing business in Asia Pacific. Among the cultural events taking place, the "Eyes on ASEAN" photo exhibition will be unveiled, featuring works by many of Southeast Asia's finest photographers, with support from Bombardier Inc.

APEC ministers responsible for trade have met jointly with foreign affairs ministers once annually since November 1989. In addition, ministers have begun meeting semi-annually to sustain the momentum toward APEC's goal of free and open trade and investment in the region by 2010 for developed economies (2020 for developing economies) and to support the work of the WTO.

APEC is the key agenda-setting body in the region, dedicated to the liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment as well as to economic and technical co-operation.

APEC comprises 18 member economies, ranging from Canada's most important trading partners, the United States and Japan, to established markets such as Singapore and Hong Kong, as well as emerging and future markets like China, Indonesia and Malaysia.

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For further information and accreditation to the APEC Trade Ministers' Meeting, media representatives should contact:

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874



News Release

May 8, 1997

No. 84

CANADA AND ARMENIA SIGN TRADE AND INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS

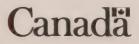
Minister for International Trade Art Eggleton today welcomed the signing of the first two bilateral agreements between Canada and the Republic of Armenia: a foreign investment promotion and protection agreement and an agreement on trade and commerce.

"These two agreements will signal a new phase in our economic relationship with Armenia," said Mr. Eggleton. "Ours is yet an untapped partnership."

The Agreement on Trade and Commerce provides a framework of rights, obligations and agreed rules for the conduct of trade and commercial relations between Canada and the Republic of Armenia. Through this agreement, Canada and Armenia will extend to each other the lowest tariff rates that they grant to any other country. This provision is also known as most-favoured-nation treatment.

The Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPA) will reduce the risk for Canadian companies investing in Armenia. A FIPA is designed to promote and protect foreign investment through legally binding rights and obligations. The FIPA incorporates key provisions from the North American Free Trade Agreement's investment chapter, including: national treatment, right to transfer funds, and rules for the settlement of any investment disputes. Agreements under this model have also been signed with Lebanon, Croatia, Egypt, Thailand, Ukraine, Latvia, Trinidad and Tobago, the Philippines, South Africa, Romania, Ecuador, Barbados, Panama and Venezuela.

These agreements are expected to be a catalyst for increased trade and investment between Canada and Armenia. Since becoming an independent nation in 1991, Armenia has applied for membership to the World Trade Organization.



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News Release

May 9, 1997

No. 85

CANADA-U.S. GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATIONS WILL FOLLOW STAKEHOLDER SALMON TALKS

The Government of Canada today announced that Canada and the United States have agreed to launch immediate government-to-government negotiations on the Pacific salmon dispute after talks between U.S. and Canadian stakeholder groups were inconclusive.

"The Canadian and U.S. stakeholder groups worked very hard and deserve our sincere thanks for their efforts," Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy said. "It is disappointing that they failed to agree on all issues. We want to settle this dispute quickly by building on the work of the stakeholders to date. The Canadian and American chief negotiators on Pacific salmon will begin negotiations on an urgent basis."

"This problem must be solved — it's a major concern to Canada and our fishers," Fisheries and Oceans Minister Fred Mifflin said.
"We will be redoubling our efforts to conclude arrangements that meet Canadian objectives for conservation and equitable sharing—the principles on which the Pacific Salmon Treaty is founded and the keys to its effective implementation for the long term."

"The salmon fishery is vital to the British Columbia economy," said Transport Minister David Anderson, senior federal minister from British Columbia. "Resolving this dispute is one of our highest priorities."

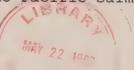
The stakeholders identified areas where further negotiations are possible. Their reports will be finalized next week. The chief negotiators on Pacific salmon, Yves Fortier for Canada and Mary Beth West for the United States, accompanied by the chairs of the stakeholder groups and senior officials, are to meet May 19-20. A representative of the Province of British Columbia will be invited to participate.

Two groups of Canadian and U.S. stakeholders, representing northern and southern fishing interests, have negotiated since February 1997 on long-term fishing arrangements for several key salmon fisheries. Their objective was to develop fishing arrangements consistent with the Pacific Salmon Treaty principles



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obliging Canada and the United States to conserve salmon and allocate fish stocks fairly.

During his April 8 meeting with President Clinton in Washington, D.C., Prime Minister Chrétien emphasized the urgency of resolving the Pacific salmon dispute and the significance of salmon not only to British Columbia but for all Canadians. Mr. Axworthy this week underlined to Secretary of State Albright the need for U.S. attention at the highest levels to resolve Canada-U.S. differences on salmon.

The Government of Canada will also vigorously pursue separate negotiations with the United States to reach agreement on fishing arrangements for the 1997 fishing season.

- 30 -

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca



News Release

May 12, 1997

No. 86

AXWORTHY WELCOMES RELEASE OF CUBAN WRITER

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today welcomed the release of a Cuban writer and journalist, Cecelio Ismail Sambra Haber.
Mr. Sambra and his family arrived in Canada on May 11. He will be taking a position at Wilfrid Laurier University as writer-in-residence. The family is sponsored by PEN Canada, a group that works on behalf of writers.

"Mr. Sambra's release is a result both of PEN Canada's efforts and Canada's policy of engagement and dialogue that allows us to discuss a wide range of issues with Cuba. An example of this dialogue was a seminar held just last week in Havana, where Canadian and Cuban officials and non-governmental organizations discussed children's rights," said the Minister. "I wish to commend PEN Canada for its work on behalf of writers."

Mr. Sambra was arrested in early 1993 for having distributed material critical of the Cuban government and was sentenced to 10 years in prison in Santiago de Cuba.

In 1996, he was made an honorary member of PEN Canada, a non-governmental organization that assists writers who have been harassed or imprisoned for expressing their views. PEN Canada sought Canadian government support in its efforts to secure Mr. Sambra's release, and Mr. Axworthy and other government officials have raised the case with the Cuban leadership numerous times, including during the Minister's visit to Cuba in January 1997.

- 30 -

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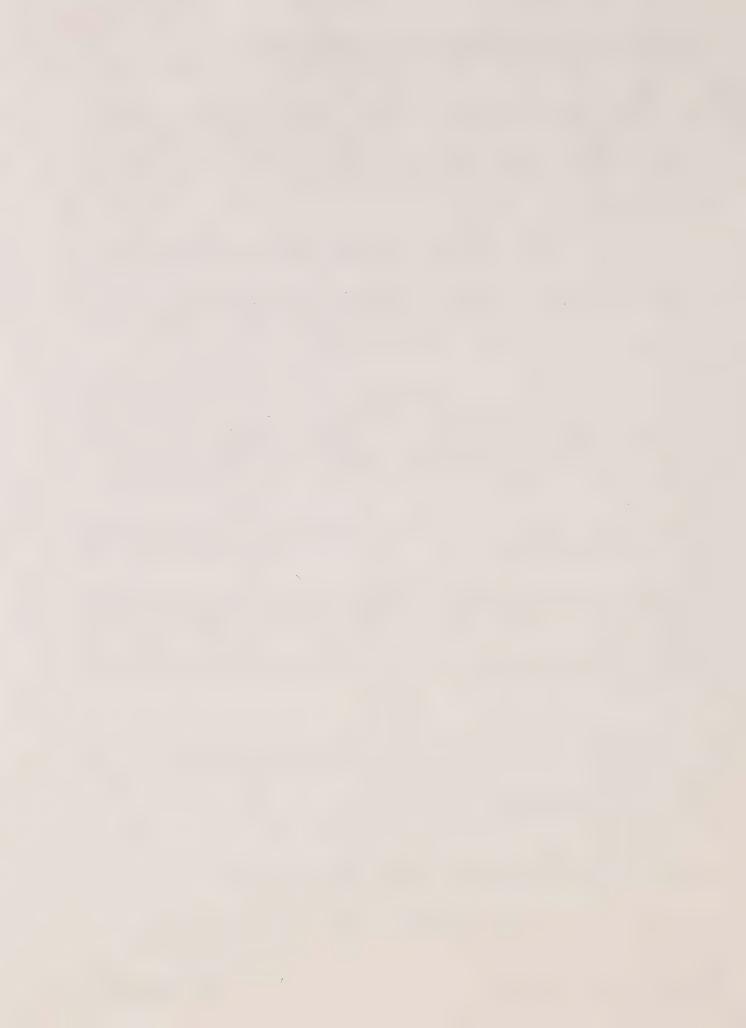
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CE NEWS Release

May 15, 1997

No. 87

CANADA WELCOMES NATO-RUSSIA RELATIONS AGREEMENT

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today welcomed the successful conclusion of negotiations between Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov and NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana on a new framework for NATO-Russia Relations.

"The new NATO-Russia relationship marks an important stage in the evolution of the post-Cold War European security structure," said Mr. Axworthy. "We stand on the threshold of a new era of stability and prosperity in the Euro-Atlantic area. The next steps will be the NATO Summit in July, the creation of a new partnership arrangement with Ukraine and addressing the concerns of other states such as the Baltic countries."

The document, to be called the Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Co-operation and Security Between NATO and the Russian Federation, creates a NATO-Russia Joint Council and commits the partners to consultation, co-operation and, when appropriate, joint action on areas of mutual concern. These cover a wide range of issues, such as peacekeeping, preventive diplomacy and preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The Founding Act is expected to be signed at a NATO-Russia Summit in Paris on May 27.

- 30 -

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May 16, 1997

No. 88

MINISTER BOUDRIA TO CHAIR THE FIRST CONFÉRENCE DES MINISTRES FRANCOPHONES CHARGÉS DES **INFOROUTES**

The Honourable Don Boudria, Minister for International Co-operation and Minister Responsible for la Francophonie, will chair the first Conférence des Ministres francophones chargés des inforoutes, which will take place in Montreal, beginning on Monday, May 19, and ending on Wednesday, May 21.

"Canada is proud to host this first conference in Montreal. More than 800 representatives of la Francophonie from around the world are expected to attend, " said Minister Boudria.

The Canadian government will give priority to three elements of the action plan that will be submitted at the conference: the democratization of access to the information highway, remote training programs, and the creation of a production assistance fund to facilitate the creation and flow of information.

"This conference provides la Francophonie with a unique opportunity to bring its members closer and thus to create a strong community through the possibilities for permanent interaction. The information highway is the way of the future for all of us, especially for youth. It is important that French be given a dynamic and proactive presence on it, " added the Minister.

The official opening ceremony will be held at the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization in Montreal, and the sessions will take place at the Radisson Hotel.

The Canadian government is contributing \$500 000, both directly and indirectly, to the conference.



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May 19, 1997

No. 89

EGGLETON IS SATISFIED WITH THE IMPACT OF THE CANADIAN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE RESPONSIBLE USE OF ASBESTOS

Minister for International Trade Art Eggleton announced today that he is very satisfied with the decision of the International Labour Organization (ILO) to meet with a Canadian technical mission in Geneva this week as part of the strategy to promote the safe use of asbestos.

This delegation, including among others two representatives from the Institut de recherche en santé et sécurité au travail (the Quebec Occupational Health and Safety Research Institute), will participate in a series of meetings from May 21 to 23. Discussions will include a partnership for training specialists, a program to promote Convention 162 and ways to implement the recommended activities.

"This mission is in keeping with the memorandum of understanding signed on March 3, 1997, by the federal government and the Canadian asbestos industry to promote responsible use of chrysotile asbestos throughout the world," declared Mr. Eggleton. Essentially, Canadian producers made a commitment to comply with international standards on the safe use of asbestos.

This agreement, modelled on the principles contained in ILO Convention 162, to which Canada has adhered since 1988, follows on another agreement reached by international asbestos companies in Canada, Brazil, Zimbabwe and Swaziland that represent 60 per cent of world production. Canada initiated Convention 162 and is one of its leading promoters.

Canada and Canadian asbestos-producing companies will assist consumer countries in developing and implementing regulatory regimes in accordance with international standards and ILO Convention 162. The industries in these countries will then be required to comply with national standards and will be subject to government controls.

"Last March, Canada made a commitment to encourage and assist consumer countries in developing strict regulations on safe use, and this technical mission to the ILO is a direct result of that," added Mr. Eggleton.

- 30 -

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News Release

May 20, 1997

No. 90

CANADA CONTRIBUTES 15 RCMP OFFICERS TO INTERNATIONAL POLICE TASK FORCE IN BOSNIA

Solicitor General of Canada Herb Gray, Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Minister for International Co-operation and Minister Responsible for la Francophonie Don Boudria announced today that Canada is sending 15 Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) officers to Bosnia to participate in the United Nations International Police Task Force (IPTF).

"The 15 RCMP officers who are being deployed to Bosnia are qualified and well prepared for the task ahead of them. I know I can count on the professionalism of these Canadian police officers to serve the UN well and support responsible police forces in Bosnia," said Mr. Gray.

The officers are being deployed under the terms of a recently concluded Administrative Arrangement concerning funding for RCMP participation in international peacekeeping missions. The Arrangement, which reflects the close co-operation among the departments and agencies involved, will streamline the process of deploying RCMP personnel to international missions, allowing the Canadian government to respond more rapidly to requests from the international community for highly qualified civilian police.

"Canada is committed to participating actively in the efforts of the international community to restore peace and order in Bosnia," said Mr. Axworthy. "This decision further reflects Canada's emphasis on the important role of civilians in peacebuilding and in making the transition from conflict to stability."

"Canada is seriously engaged in work towards stronger democratic institutions in Bosnia," Mr. Boudria stated. "Sending Canadian police officers to Bosnia fits well with the reconstruction assistance objectives of the Canadian International Development Agency's Central and Eastern Europe program."

The IPTF was established by a UN Security Council Resolution in December 1995, following the Bosnian Peace Agreement, which was signed in November of that year. Its mandate is to monitor,



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train, advise and otherwise assist the Bosnian police forces to ensure that they operate in accordance with internationally recognized standards and with respect for internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The IPTF has a current mandate of 18 months and consists of a multinational force of approximately 1800 officers from 37 countries operating under UN command and headed by a Danish officer. Canadian contingents will serve in six-month rotations.

Five Canadian police officers who have served in Bosnia with the IPTF for a year with support from Canada's Reconstruction Assistance Program will be returning to Canada next month.

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca



News Release

May 21, 1997

No. 91

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CANADA TAKES ACTION FOLLOWING DEADLOCK IN SALMON TALKS

The Government of Canada today announced that it has suspended discussions with the United States over settlement of the long-standing dispute on Pacific salmon and will take measures against foreign fishing vessels travelling through Canadian waters.

Talks halted unexpectedly when the U.S. negotiator was unable to advance a position on one of the key southern issues, Fraser River sockeye. Until then talks had been fairly positive.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans enforcement staff have been instructed to ensure that existing regulations — which require foreign vessels to contact Canadian authorities as they pass through Canadian waters — are enforced. Depending on the circumstances, vessels that violate the regulations can be inspected, required to go to a Canadian port or face arrest. Inspections could be conducted randomly. U.S. vessels going to and from the Alaskan fishery are subject to these regulations.

"We are deeply disappointed that the United States came to these meetings lacking the authority to negotiate," said Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy. "Canada will resume negotiations as soon as the United States is prepared to negotiate in good faith. I will be pressing the U.S. government to ensure that its negotiator has a full mandate."

"Our stakeholders did their best to resolve key issues in recent negotiations with U.S. stakeholders without success," said Fisheries and Oceans Minister Fred Mifflin. "Their efforts were frustrated by U.S. unwillingness to agree on fair sharing of the resource. The Canadian objectives for conservation and equitable sharing must be met. They are the pillars of the Pacific Salmon Treaty."

"We must preserve and build this fishery, which is essential to the British Columbia economy," said Transport Minister David Anderson, senior federal minister for British Columbia. "Many British Columbians depend on this industry."



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Discussions between the chief negotiators on Pacific salmon, Yves Fortier for Canada and Mary Beth West for the United States, broke off in Seattle yesterday after the U.S. negotiator indicated she did not have the authority to make compromises on Fraser River sockeye. The chief negotiators had resumed negotiations May 20 after stakeholder talks ended inconclusively May 9. The chairs of the stakeholder groups, senior Canadian and U.S. government officials, and representatives of British Columbia and the states of Washington, Oregon and Alaska joined the chief negotiators in their talks.

During his meeting with President Clinton in Washington, D.C., on April 8, Prime Minister Chrétien emphasized the urgency in resolving the Pacific salmon dispute and the significance of salmon not only for British Columbia but for all Canadians. Mr. Axworthy has also stressed to U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright the need for U.S. attention at the highest levels to resolve Canada-U.S. differences on salmon.

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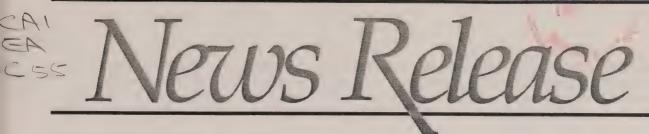
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May 21, 1997

No. 92

MINISTER DON BOUDRIA, CHAIR OF THE CONFERENCE OF FRANCOPHONE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INFORMATION HIGHWAY, HAILS THE INTERNATIONAL FRANCOPHONE COMMUNITY'S COMMITMENT TO THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

The Honourable Don Boudria, Minister for International Cooperation and Minister Responsible for La Francophonie, today expressed his enormous satisfaction at the conclusion of the first Conference of Francophone Ministers Responsible for the Information Highway.

The Conference ended with the adoption of the Montreal Declaration.

The Declaration launches the Conference's Plan of Action, whose dual objective is to create a truly Francophone environment on the information highway and to make La Francophonie a major player in the information society.

"This declaration will be the legacy left to the rest of the world by a vibrant, modern and determined Francophone community. It stems from a realistic assessment of the Internet's potential to enable people to form closer ties, to develop and to make each other's lives richer," Minister Boudria said. "The international Francophone community has just made a historic technological shift that will be highly beneficial, especially for young people. We should be very proud of this."

The Plan of Action is based on La Francophonie's three major objectives: to allow more democratic access to the information highway, to use it as a tool and to affirm the presence of La Francophonie as a cultural and economic force by promoting the creation and dissemination of Francophone content.

Canada agreed that appropriate funding mechanisms should be established in preparation for the Hanoi Summit. At the same time, Canada expressed its wish to see more servers installed, to help purchase licences, to support consultation committees, to



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support means for distance education, to develop production assistance mechanisms, and to allow the sharing of knowledge between developed and developing countries by establishing data banks.

"All Francophone countries have a lot of offer and to gain from each other. The sooner we are all on-line, the sooner we will be able to share," Minister Boudria noted.

"This conference allowed the preparation of a whole aspect of the program for the upcoming Francophone Summit in Hanoi, Vietnam, in November 1997. The Montreal Plan of Action will play a central role at the Summit," Minister Boudria concluded.

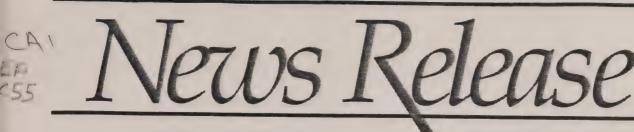
The Conference of Francophone Ministers Responsible for the Information Highway was organized in response to a decision made at the Cotonou Summit. Held in Montreal from May 19 to 21, the Conference was jointly organized by the Agence de la Francophonie and the governments of Canada and Quebec. It was attended by more than 500 delegates, ministers and guests of the international Francophone community.

-30-

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May 23, 1997

No. 93

CANADA URGES U.S. TO RETURN TO SALMON NEGOTIATIONS WITH MANDATE TO TALK

The Government of Canada today called upon the United States to return in good faith to negotiations aimed at settling the Pacific salmon dispute.

Canada suspended talks on May 21 when the U.S. negotiator was unable to advance a position on one of the key southern issues, Fraser River sockeye. Until then talks had been fairly positive.

"I am contacting U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright today to urge that the United States send its chief negotiator back to the table with a mandate to reach agreement on the dispute," said Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy. "Barring an immediate return to negotiations, we will consider further options. Any further steps we take must be aimed at resuming negotiations — not detracting from them."

Raymond Chrétien, Canadian Ambassador to the U.S., has also made representations to the U.S. Administration and the Governors of Oregon and Washington to clear the way for an immediate resumption of negotiations.

"On May 21, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans stepped up enforcement of measures requiring foreign vessels to contact Canadian authorities as they pass through Canadian waters," said Fisheries and Oceans Minister Fred Mifflin. "We will assess the impact of these measures in the near future to determine their effectiveness."

Under the Department of Fisheries and Oceans regulations, vessels that violate the regulations can be inspected, required to go to a Canadian port or face arrest, depending on circumstances.

"We will not risk our B.C. salmon stocks or the jobs and communities in this province which depend on them," said Transport Minister David Anderson, senior federal minister for British Columbia. "We are taking immediate action so that this critical B.C. issue goes to the top of the American agenda."









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News Release

May 23, 1997

No. 94

NEW PROMOTIONAL TOOL TARGETS INTERNATIONAL MARKETS FOR CANADA'S EDUCATION INDUSTRY

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and International Trade Minister Art Eggleton today announced that the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) will distribute a new CD-ROM called Study in Canada! to all its diplomatic and trade missions abroad to help promote Canadian education institutions in foreign markets. This interactive directory of Canada's education industry was demonstrated at the 49th annual conference of the Association of International Educators held May 20-23 in Vancouver — the first non-U.S. venue for the event.

"This powerful marketing tool will bring the excellence of Canadian education institutions and services to the attention of education leaders and international students around the world," said Mr. Axworthy. "The CD-ROM will fill a large gap in providing timely information about the range and extent of Canadian educational services. We have needed such a tool for a long time."

"The development of *Study in Canada!* reflects a true Team Canada approach," said Mr. Eggleton. "It will be a detailed guide to the broad range of education services in Canada, from coast to coast. The final product should prove to be one of the most extensive, visually appealing and easily retrievable information sources of its kind."

With the encouragement of DFAIT, a Canadian consortium produced the CD-ROM, which profiles over 90 Canadian learning institutions. The consortium includes the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, School Finder Limited and Sigma VI.

The first edition of Study in Canada! will be introduced to Canadian missions and Canadian Education Centres in French, English, Spanish, Portuguese and German. The CD-ROM technology will also be used throughout the Canadian Education Centres network in the Asia Pacific region, supported by materials in local languages.

The consortium hopes to set a new standard for representing Canada's educational interests abroad and to reach out to the political and economic decision makers of the future. In this regard, it has also created a Web site, also called *Study in Canada!*

Canada is the world's fifth-largest host country for students from other countries, after the United States, France, Germany and the United Kingdom. In 1994-1995 alone, more than 84 800 international students attended Canadian universities, colleges, career colleges, secondary schools and other institutions, injecting more than \$2.3 billion — or an equivalent of approximately 21 000 jobs — into the Canadian economy. In cooperation with the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, the Association of Canadian Community Colleges, the National Association of Career Colleges and other national agencies, the consortium will have a significant impact on the recruitment of international students in the years to come.

- 30 -

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Rodney Briggs Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (604) 684-5986

Chris Wilkins School Finder Limited (416) 494-3343

Bruce Mabley Sigma VI (514) 484-2992

May 23, 1997

No. 95

CANADA AND U.S. TO RESUME SALMON TALKS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy announced today that he and U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright have agreed that negotiations on the Pacific salmon dispute will resume May 30. Neither side has set any preconditions for relaunching the negotiations.

"The United States will return to the table with a full mandate to negotiate, " said Mr. Axworthy after a telephone conversation with Ms. Albright. "The chief U.S. negotiator will consult with stakeholders in the Pacific Northwest before negotiations resume."

Canada suspended talks on May 21 when the U.S. negotiator was unable to advance a position on one of the key southern issues, Fraser River sockeye.

Mr. Axworthy said the agreement to return to negotiations came after representations by Raymond Chrétien, Canadian Ambassador to the U.S., to the U.S. Administration and the Governors of Oregon and Washington and ongoing discussions over the last few days among senior officials of the two governments.

"Secretary Albright and I agreed that progress had been made in the negotiations before they reached an impasse on May 21," Mr. Axworthy said. "There is good will on both sides, but we must settle the outstanding issues. We are facing an impending deadline - the beginning of the fishing season."

After the talks broke off on May 21, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans stepped up enforcement of measures requiring foreign vessels to contact Canadian authorities as they pass through Canadian waters. Under the regulations, vessels that violate the regulations can be inspected, required to go to a Canadian port or face arrest, depending on circumstances.





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May 26, 1997

No. 96

CANADA WELCOMES INITIALLING OF AGREEMENT ON **HUMANE TRAPPING STANDARDS WITH EUROPEAN UNION**

The Honourable Art Eggleton, Minister for International Trade, today welcomed the initialling by Canada and the European Union (EU) of adjustments to the International Agreement on Humane Trapping Standards.

"I am very pleased with this development," said Mr. Eggleton. "It is an important step toward an eventual agreement and an excellent example of how countries, working together, can negotiate resolutions to difficult trade issues. The Agreement, when it comes into force, will ensure the viability of an important industry that employs many thousands of Canadians and Europeans," added the Minister.

"The initialling of these adjustments also marks an important milestone in the protection of animal welfare by committing both Canada and the EU to strict, humane trapping standards for all trapping situations, including trapping for pest control, conservation, fur and food. I seriously urge the EU to approve this agreement as quickly as possible, " said Mr. Eggleton.

The initialling of this agreement comes after five months of intensive contacts between European Commission and Canadian trade officials. The Russian Federation is also expected to initial the Agreement shortly. Following an earlier initialling of the Agreement in December 1996, the Commission asked Canada and the Russian Federation to pursue further adjustments to improve the Agreement in specific areas.

These adjustments will further Canada's commitments under the Agreement to a ban on leg-hold traps, clarify the scope of provisions concerning the use of traditional traps by Aboriginal peoples, increase the number of species covered from 18 to 19 and secure the functioning of the Agreement by requiring that the rulings of the arbitration body be binding.

This ambitious agreement lays down stringent and scientifically based standards for all trapping methods involving mechanical devices used to catch 19 species of wild mammals, regardless of



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the reasons for their capture. Parties to the Agreement will be obliged to prohibit trapping methods that do not comply with these standards within a clearly defined time frame.

Canada expects the ministers of the European member states to approve the Agreement at their forthcoming meetings in June.

In November 1991, the EU passed a resolution banning the use of leg-hold traps. The resolution would eventually have prevented the export of most Canadian furs to the EU even though only a small percentage of wild Canadian fur is caught using leg-hold traps. Although discussions on the issue have been ongoing since August 1995, Canada, along with the United States and Russia, has been negotiating officially with the EU since July 1996 to establish an agreement that would prevent the application of this import ban.

The fur industry in Canada employs up to 100 000 people — including approximately 80 000 trappers, of whom close to half are Aboriginal — and generates up to \$600 million in economic activity annually.

-30-

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

TEAN NEWS Release

May 27, 1997

No. 97

AXWORTHY AND STEWART ENCOURAGE DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) Christine Stewart today called upon the President of the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire), Laurent-Désiré Kabila, to form a broad-based government, undertake reconstruction of the country and assist the humanitarian agencies dealing with refugees in the country.

"Canada urges President Kabila to focus on constructing a broad-based government and to turn his attention to the serious political, social and economic problems facing the vast majority of the Democratic Republic of Congo's people," said Mr. Axworthy. "This change of orientation requires the establishment of the rule of law and democratic institutions, good governance practices and a transparent electoral process that would lead to free and fair legislative and presidential elections at the earliest possible date."

"Canada is extremely disturbed with the plight of the refugees, especially in light of the number of serious allegations of inhumane treatment," said Mrs. Stewart. "We call upon President Kabila to ensure adequate access and security for humanitarian relief agencies seeking to help both the many refugees still in the country and the displaced Congolese."

Canada was one of the first countries to fully support an investigation of reports of atrocities in the refugee camps. "It is critical that the Joint Mission of Investigation be able to examine all information that would shed light on this human tragedy in the eastern region of the former Zaire," added Mrs. Stewart.

The Government of Canada is prepared to reconsider its relations with the Democratic Republic of Congo, greatly reduced under the former Mobutu regime, depending on the policies and priorities that are to be determined by the country's new government. In 1991, Canada ended its bilateral assistance program and closed its embassy in 1993.





The Canadian government remains satisfied that the approximately 400 Canadians still in Kinshasa are safe.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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May 27, 1997

No. 98

AXWORTHY AND STEWART CALL ON SIERRA LEONE TO RESTORE DEMOCRACY AFTER COUP

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) Christine Stewart today strongly condemned the third military takeover in Sierra Leone in five years and called for the speedy restoration of constitutional order.

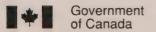
"The forcible overthrow of civilian President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah's elected government is unacceptable," said Mr. Axworthy. "It is all the more tragic after Sierra Leone's real progress toward democracy, peace and economic reconstruction since early last year. We call on our Commonwealth partners and the international community to join in pressing for an immediate peaceful return to democracy".

"It is important that Sierra Leone continue to follow the democratic course it has set for itself," said Mrs. Stewart. "Canada urges the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group to consider the issue at its next meeting in early July and make recommendations to Heads of Government."

Canada has played a leadership role in the Action Group, which was created after a 1995 initiative by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien to promote democracy, respect for human rights and good governance in member countries. By virtue of its membership in the Commonwealth, Sierra Leone, like all members, has undertaken to uphold and safeguard these fundamental values.

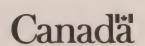
Canada assisted the 1996 elections in several ways, notably through a technical expert and voter education, and has followed up with help for strengthening the judiciary. The Canadian International Development Agency has also provided humanitarian and food aid to Sierra Leoneans.

Canadians have been advised to defer all travel to the country. The small number of Canadians already in Sierra Leone are urged to respect the curfew and contact the British High Commission as









soon as possible. Canada has no diplomatic representation in Sierra Leone. Consular services are provided through the Canadian High Commission in Ghana.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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May 27, 1997

No. 99

CANADA REGRETS U.S. POSTPONEMENT OF SALMON TALKS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today expressed regret that the United States has postponed negotiations, scheduled for May 30, on the Pacific salmon dispute.

"The Government regrets the U.S. decision," said Mr. Axworthy. "Canada is acting within its rights under international law and practice in requiring foreign fishing vessels to contact Canadian authorities as they pass through Canadian waters. The United States applies similar regulations."

"We are ready to re-engage in negotiations," he added. be contacting U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright as soon as possible to discuss this situation."

Canada suspended talks on May 21 when the U.S. negotiator was unable to advance a position on one of the key southern issues, Fraser River sockeye.

Mr. Axworthy and Ms. Albright agreed May 23 that talks would resume May 30 and that there would be no preconditions. United States agreed that its chief negotiator would come back with a mandate to negotiate after discussions this week with stakeholders in the U.S. Pacific Northwest.

Four U.S. fishing vessels were charged with violating Canadian regulations in the last three days. The captains of three vessels were fined in a British Columbia court Tuesday and their vessels released.

- 30 -

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May 29, 1997 Mo. 100

SENATOR MOLGAT TO LEAD CANADIAN DELEGATION TO OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN PERU

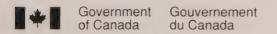
Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that the Honourable Gildas L. Molgat, Speaker of the Senate of Canada, will lead the Canadian delegation to the 27th Organization of American States (OAS) General Assembly from June 1 to 6, 1997, in Lima, Peru.

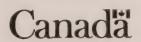
"We are fortunate to have a representative of Senator Molgat's stature representing Canada at this important hemispheric meeting," said Mr. Axworthy. The Minister noted that Senator Molgat will be an honorary co-chair of the upcoming Parliamentary Conference of the Americas, to be held in September in Quebec City.

Canada's objectives for this year's OAS meeting include:

- building regional support through the Ottawa Process, a Canadian initiative aimed at concluding a treaty by December 1997 for a global ban on anti-personnel landmines, following on a resolution passed at the 1996 General Assembly to create a Western Hemisphere Anti-Personnel Landmines-Free Zone by the year 2000;
- seeking hemispheric support for a continued international presence in Haiti, which Canada believes will assist Haitian efforts to consolidate democracy and build a lasting foundation for peace;
- focussing trade discussions on the 1998 launch of negotiations toward a Free Trade Agreement of the Americas, following a decision by foreign affairs ministers from the hemisphere at their May 14 meeting in Belo Horizonte, Brazil; and
- pursuing reforms under way at the OAS, including a review of the inter-American human rights system.

While in Lima, Senator Molgat will meet with Peruvian ministers and senior representatives from Central and South America and the





Caribbean. He will also participate in a meeting of foreign affairs ministers to review planning for the next Summit of the Americas, to be held in Santiago, Chile, in March 1998.

The General Assembly of the OAS is an annual meeting of foreign affairs ministers from 34 member states in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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ER News Release

May 30, 1997

No. 101

VIETNAM INTERESTED IN CANADA'S PROGRAM FOR RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT OF CHRYSOTILE FIBRE

International Trade Minister Art Eggleton welcomed today the visit to Canada of a group of Vietnamese experts here to investigate Canadian policy and practices for the responsible management of chrysotile fibre.

"The Canadian government and chrysotile industry have cause to be very pleased with the results that will be generated from the memorandum we signed last March to promote the responsible use of chrysotile fibre worldwide," said Mr. Eggleton. "Vietnam's interest in the management of mining operations in Canada is very important for us because of its influence with other Asian countries, which represent a sizable market for chrysotile fibre."

The Vietnamese delegation consists of three members: Mr. Pham Khang of the Environmental Impact Studies Division, Vietnamese Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment; Mr. Dang Ngoc Truc, Director of the National Institute of Medical Expertise, Ministry of Health; and Mr. Nguyen The Hung, Science and Technology Branch, Ministry of Construction.

The program for the visit, which takes place this week, includes among other things an inspection of the mining facilities of JM Asbestos in Asbestos and of LAB Chrysotile Inc. in Thetford Mines. The Vietnamese experts will also meet with representatives from various federal and provincial departments concerned, such as the federal and Quebec natural resources departments. Briefing sessions are planned with specialists from the Institut de recherche en santé et sécurité du travail du Québec, the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board, the Asbestos Institute and the Institut Armand-Frappier.

Since July 1996, the Canadian government has been working closely with the Quebec government, the Asbestos Institute, the industry and unions to set in motion a common action plan. Federal and provincial representatives also sit on the Chrysotile Working Group and the Communications Committee.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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June 13, 1997

No. 102

CANADA AND THE U.S. TO RESUME SALMON NEGOTIATIONS

Canada and the United States have agreed that negotiations on the Pacific salmon dispute will resume on June 18, Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Fisheries and Oceans Minister David Anderson announced today.

"We are pleased that, following consultations among U.S. stakeholders, the U.S. is returning to the talks with a clear mandate to reach a settlement," said Mr. Axworthy. "I am hopeful that agreement on outstanding issues can be reached very quickly."

"We are determined to find a resolution that respects the conservation and equity principles of the Pacific Salmon Treaty," said Mr. Anderson. "We need to resolve this dispute to ensure conservation of this precious resource for both parties."

Canada and the U.S. have been trying since 1992 to reach long-term fishing arrangements and to agree on how to implement fully the principles of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. The two nations have used negotiations and mediation in an effort to reach agreement. Over the last three months, stakeholder negotiations led to government-to-government negotiations.

On May 21, talks between Canadian negotiator Yves Fortier and his American counterpart, Mary Beth West, were suspended when the U.S. was unable to advance a position on one of the key southern issues, Fraser River sockeye.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

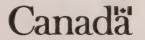
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Brian Bohunicky Office of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (613) 992-3474

This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca







June 13, 1997

No. 103

AXWORTHY WELCOMES APPOINTMENT OF MARY ROBINSON AS UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today welcomed the appointment of Mary Robinson, President of Ireland, as the new United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

"I am delighted with this appointment. Ms. Robinson is eminently qualified for this position and has demonstrated a strong commitment to human rights and humanitarian issues, both in her own country and internationally. Canada looks forward to working with her, and I commend Secretary-General Kofi Annan for this appointment." said Mr. Axworthy.

Ms. Robinson will assume principal responsibility for the human rights activities of the UN, including the tasks of integrating human rights throughout the UN system and guiding the work of the Centre for Human Rights in Geneva.

Canada attaches great importance to the role of the UN in protecting and promoting human rights internationally and played a central role in the creation of the position of High Commissioner for Human Rights following the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights in 1993. Ms. Robinson is the second person to hold the position of High Commissioner, replacing Mr. José Ayala Lasso, who resigned the post last March to become Foreign Minister of Ecuador.

Secretary-General Annan announced Ms. Robinson's appointment at the UN in New York yesterday.

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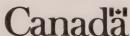


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June 14, 1997

No. 104

CANADA AND UKRAINE CONCLUDE AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Transport Minister David Collenette today announced the conclusion of a new Air Transport Agreement between Canada and Ukraine. The announcement was made in Winnipeg during the visit of Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko.

"This agreement is a positive further development in Canada's overall bilateral relations with Ukraine," said Mr. Axworthy.
"The new air service will reinforce family ties, favour cultural exchanges, and contribute to growth in trade and tourism."

"Canada welcomes the air service opportunities that the new agreement provides for airlines and communities, particularly Toronto, which is the major Canadian air transport market for Ukraine" said Mr. Collenette. "The successful conclusion of this agreement will permit, for the first time, scheduled air services to be operated between Canada and Ukraine."

Under the agreement, both sides established the operational and commercial flexibility needed for both Ukrainian airlines and Air Canada to fully serve this small but expanding air travel market.

As a direct result of this agreement, Ukrainian airlines will operate scheduled flights to Toronto with an option to operate flights to a second Canadian city. Air Canada plans to serve the market in co-operation with its alliance partner in Europe. The agreement takes effect immediately.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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or:



Larry LaFleur Deputy Director, International Air Policy Transport Canada (613) 991-6432

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

ER NEWS Release

June 17, 1997

No. 105

AXWORTHY AND MARLEAU ATTEND CANADA-CUBA SEMINAR ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Minister for International Co-operation and Minister Responsible for la Francophonie Diane Marleau are participating in the Canada-Cuba seminar on Women's Rights taking place in Ottawa June 16 and 17.

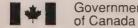
"Creating a forum for an open exchange of ideas and experiences between our two countries is an important way that Canada and Cuba can contribute to the development of women's rights, and indeed broader issues of human rights. We are pleased that, through this seminar and other similar activities, Cuba has agreed to work with Canada in an open and constructive fashion as outlined in the Declaration signed in January," said Mr. Axworthy.

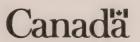
"Meetings such as this are an important way to reinforce and support the work we are doing through our official development assistance programs internationally," said Ms. Marleau. "Human rights, as well as gender equity, democracy and good governance are among the priorities of the Canadian International Development Agency," added the Minister.

Agenda items for the delegates include the advancement of women, women's health, national application of the provisions of the UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, and women's rights and sustainable development.

This two-day seminar follows an earlier Canada-Cuba seminar on children's rights, which was held in Havana in May. Both meetings are a direct result of commitments made in the Joint Declaration signed by Canada and Cuba during Mr. Axworthy's visit to Cuba in January 1997.

The Joint Declaration provides for 14 specific areas of cooperation including the administration of justice, parliamentary exchanges, academic and professional exchanges, and co-operation on economic, banking and investment matters, among others.





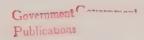
Canada's delegation to the Ottawa meeting is being led by Jean Augustine, Member of Parliament for Etobicoke-Lakeshore. Together with observers and official delegates, over 20 Canadian NGOs and academics concerned with women's rights are represented along with officials of concerned federal government departments. The Cuban delegation includes participation from the Federation of Cuban Women, the Cuban Foreign Ministry and other concerned departments.

-30-

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June 18, 1997

No. 106

CANADA AND UKRAINE STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC TIES

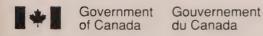
Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today welcomed the signing of several business and bilateral agreements between Canada and Ukraine. These agreements were announced at the second meeting of the Canada-Ukraine Intergovernmental Economic Commission (IEC), which was chaired by Mr. Axworthy and attended by Ukraine Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko, in Spruce Meadows, Alberta.

Approximately 125 Canadian companies and 200 delegates from Ukraine participated in the IEC, which supports business development efforts and encourages broad-based economic reform in Ukraine. This meeting focussed on agriculture, construction and trade and was organized in concert with the Canada-Ukraine Business Initiative, a private sector conference being held this week.

"Canada is committed to strengthening our economic partnership and supporting the important economic reform process under way in Ukraine," said Mr. Axworthy. "The IEC has helped us meet this objective by advancing several major commercial deals."

Mr. Axworthy and Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Mikhaylo Zubets witnessed the conclusion of several important commercial deals.

- TransCanada Pipelines of Calgary and its Ukrainian partner, Ukragazprom, have signed an agreement to modernize Ukraine's gas transmission system.
- Commercial Alcohols of Mississauga signed a contract with the Ukrainian government giving them the right to develop a national program on alternative fuels to help reduce Ukraine's reliance on imported oil. The company forecasts \$2 billion in fuel production by the end of 2010.
- Northland Power of Toronto received a certificate of registration from Ukraine, clearing the final administrative precondition for its US\$150 million project to refurbish the Darnytsia thermal power plant near Kyiv.





- Mr. Axworthy also announced that the Ukrainian Parliament has approved an export-financing facility valued at over \$55 million offered by the Export Development Corporation.
- Two new Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) projects will improve Ukraine's ability to attract foreign trade and investment, by helping to advance the reforms already under way in that country.

In the first CIDA project, experts from Justice Canada will help Ukraine's Ministry of Justice to reform its legal framework. In the second project, Canadian policy advisors and technical experts will work closely with their Ukrainian counterparts in areas such as the public service, agriculture, taxation, financial management and energy.

"These two projects are excellent examples of how Canadian knowledge and technology can benefit other countries and reinforce our co-operation with Ukraine," said Diane Marleau, Minister for International Co-operation and Minister Responsible for la Francophonie.

- 30 -

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June 20, 1997

No. 107

ATLANTIC CANADA CELEBRATES CANADA'S YEAR OF ASIA PACIFIC

The Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Foreign Affairs, today announced that a series of events in Atlantic Canada will receive funding as part of the cultural component of Canada's Year of Asia Pacific (CYAP).

Upcoming events were highlighted at a gathering of artists, performers and event organizers from Nova Scotia's cultural community, at the Anna Leonowens Gallery of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design.

"Canada's Year of Asia Pacific will help strengthen and expand our relationship with the Asia Pacific region by promoting increased business opportunities, youth involvement and cultural exchanges," said Mr. Axworthy. "The CYAP cultural program celebrates Canada's cultural ties to the region, and recognizes the contribution of Canada's cultural sector to strengthening our relations in Asia Pacific."

About \$207 000 is being provided in support of 48 different projects in Atlantic Canada, ranging from cultural events and visual arts exhibits to performances and workshops.

"I am very pleased to announce these projects as part of the activities scheduled for Canada's Year of Asia Pacific," said Mr. Axworthy. "These events will provide an excellent opportunity to strengthen our people-to-people connection with other Asia Pacific communities through heightened cross-cultural awareness. It is another example of the federal government's efforts to facilitate new cultural and business ties with this dynamic region."

The Government of Canada has designated 1997 as Canada's Year of Asia Pacific in honour of its role as this year's chair of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum. Activities planned across the country throughout the year include business and trade seminars at the local and national level; cultural and youth events; and a series of APEC ministerial meetings. CYAP







will culminate in the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in November, when the Prime Minister will host economic leaders from Asia Pacific in Vancouver.

Funding for CYAP cultural projects has been provided for in the federal budget, and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

- 30 -

A list of events is enclosed.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

See the CYAP web site at: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/~cyap-acap

Nova Scotia Cultural Projects for Canada's Year of Asia Pacific - 1997

Mar 17-24 Halifax

Professor Masako Ino speaks on Japanese women's culture in Japan and North America.

Presenter: Mount St. Vincent University (902) 457-6257

Apr 12 Dartmouth

Baisakhi Harvest Festival with folk dances, songs and drama.

Presenter: Indo Canadian Association of Nova Scotia at Carrefour Grand Havre (902) 462-2315

Apr 19-Apr 26 Halifax

Collaboration between NSCAD and Asian ceramic artists; celebrates the ritual of tea and the traditional vessel presented by Jiansheng Li. Presenter: Nova Scotia College of Art & Design (902) 494-8237

May 19-Jun 2 Sydney

Brings together art produced in Japanese and Nova Scotia schools, demonstrating the importance of visual art in education.

Presenter: University College of Cape Breton Art Gallery

Jun 1-Dec 31 Atlantic Wide, * Cheverie, N.S. Slide talks on natural dyes of Asia Pacific.

Presenter: Karen Diadick Casselman (902) 633-2837 (Please call for exact dates)

Jun 6-Oct 13 Sydney

Fortress Louisbourg and NSCAD present an exhibit of Chinese porcelain, a workshop and a Web page.

Presenter: Louisbourg Institute (902) 733-3546

Jun 14-28 Nova Scotia (3 venues)*

Tabla player and teacher Vineet Vyas performs in Sydney (June 14), Dartmouth (June 21), Halifax (June 28)

Presenter: Vineet Vyas (902) 895-2595

Jun 20-22 Dartmouth

Celebrating Canada's Multicultural Mosaic with emphasis on Asia Pacific. Presenter: Multicultural Association of Nova Scotia (902) 423-6534

Jun 20-Dec 31 Halifax

Youth group to perform lion dance throughout region.

Presenter: Chinese Canadian Youth Association (902) 443-4889

Jun 28-Jul 1 Belle Cote*

Popular Korean group of dancers and musicians from Montreal for presentation in Cheticamp, North Cape and Louisbourg.

Presenter: Le festival International de Danse du Cap-Breton (902) 235-2261

Jul 14-19 Halifax

Chinese Culture celebrating "rice" through original music, dance, performance and art by Sin Ying Ho.

Presenter: Anna Leonowens Gallery, NSCAD, (902) 494-8184

Jul 17-19 Halifax

Displays, entertainment and expositions of Asia Pacific music, art and culture.

Presenter: Seniors Expo 97 at World Trade Center (902) 421-8686

Jul 31-Aug 2 Baddeck, Halifax*
Khac Chi Ensemble from Vancouver performs traditional Vietnamese music.
Presenter: Vietnamese Association of Nova Scotia, Baddeck (902) 539-8800 & Halifax (902) 457-0087

Sep 1-Dec 31 Halifax
Using Internet and video to link students in high schools in Asia Pacific and Halifax.

Presenter: Sackville High (902) 864-6700

Sep 1-30 Halifax Slide lecture on Malaysian textile practice as related to arts education by Suzanne Swannie. Presenter: Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (902) 494-8154

Sep 22-Oct 6 Halifax The Japanese vision of space and form as used in their basketry techniques by Hisako Sekjima. Presenter: Nova Scotia Basketry Guild (902) 494-8224

Sep 23-Oct 4 Halifax Exhibition of textile work by Tsuneko Fujimoto, a prominent senior Japanese artist. Presenter: Anna Leonowens Gallery, NSCAD (902) 494-8184

Oct 19-25 Halifax World premiere of "From Distant Places" with composer Chunha Gao including lectures on the work by the composer. Presenter: Symphony Nova Scotia (902) 421-1300

Oct 24-29 Halifax, Wolfville*
Conrad del Rosario, Philippine-born composer/performer with Upstream Music in performances and lectures. Dalhousie Arts Centre Oct. 24; Upstream Ensemble, St. Mary's University Oct. 26; Acadia University, t.b.a.
Presenter: Dalhousie University Dept. of Music (902) 494-2418

Oct 23-25 Halifax Lectures and performances with Yip Wai Hong from Hong Kong on Asian Pacific folk music. Presenter: KSC-KSNS-CMEA-NSMEA Music Conference 97 (902) 835-0374

Oct 31-Nov 9 Halifax Production of "Kanashibetsu" by Japan's Furano Company. Presenter: Neptune Studio Theatre (902) 429-7070

Nov 1-30 Halifax Museum hosts photo and archival exhibit, "Growing Up Chinese in Halifax," presented by Albert Lee. Presenter: Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History (902) 424-7353

Nov 10-15 Halifax Contemporary music collaborative project with musicians from Japan. Presenter: Upstream Music at St. Mary's Art Gallery (902) 422-2644

Nov 20-30 Halifax Canadian premiere of the play "Crow" by Louis Nowra, Australian Aboriginal playwright. Presenter: Eastern Front Theatre at Neptune Studio Theatre (902) 429-7070

Nov 27-30 Halifax
"Japanese Bandstand: The Staged Reading" (Nov. 29) Nobu Adilman's film script.
Film program "Asian Minipops" (Nov. 27-30)
Presenter: Wormwood Cinema (902) 423-3433
*Touring Exhibit

New Brunswick Cultural Projects for Canada's Year of Asia Pacific - 1997

Feb 15 Moncton

Annual celebration of multicultural heritage.

Presenter: Multicultural Association of the Greater Moncton Area (506) 858-9659

May 24 Fredericton

Folk dances, music, choirs, costume display, Kung Fu and dragon dance. Presenter: Chinese Cultural Association of New Brunswick (506) 459-1110

Jun 1-Dec 31 Atlantic Wide*

Slide talks on natural dyes of Asia Pacific.

Presenter: Karen Diadick Casselman (902) 633-2837 (Please call for exact dates)

Jul 1-Aug 7 Fredericton

Chinese Lion dance on Canada Day, August workshop on history and performance techniques.

Presenter: UNB Overseas Chinese Student Association (506) 453-4651

Jul 1-Aug 30 Fredericton*

Photo exhibit "Rainforests of the Pacific Rim" by photographer James Wilson. Presenter: Playhouse Theatre (506) 458-8344

Sep 20-Oct 12 Fredericton

Screenings and workshops; Amanda Crowley presents video practice in Australia, includes Aboriginal material.

Presenter: Gallery Connexion (506) 454-1433

Oct 30-Nov 10 Fredericton

Mina Shum of Vancouver to present her films, give directing workshop, rural outreach via TV broadcast.

Presenter: NB Filmmakers Co-op (506) 455-1632

Nov 1-30 Saint John*

Photo exhibit "Rainforests of the Pacific Rim" by photographer James Wilson. Presenter: Imperial Theatre (506) 633-9494

Nov 15-Feb 15 Saint John

Selected Japanese decorative arts from the Museum's prestigious collection. Presenter: New Brunswick Museum (506) 643-2346

Nov 27-Dec 6 Pokemouche, N.B.

Production of 5 radio interviews from Brisbane, Australia; Australian

Aboriginal material included.

Presenter: Radio Péninsule Inc (CKRO-MF) (506) 336-9706

* Touring Exhibit

Prince Edward Island Cultural Projects for Canada's Year of Asia Pacific - 1997

Mar 3-Jun 20 Kensington Teaching Asian arts in high school and elementary school. Presenter: Katy Baker, Kensington Cultural Foundation (902) 836-3209

Jun 1-Dec 31 Atlantic Wide* Slide talks on natural dyes of Asia Pacific. Presenter: Karen Diadick Casselman (902) 633-2837. (Please call for exact dates)

Jun 13-15 Charlottetown Multicultural Festival: food, fashion, artifacts. Six Asian countries featured. Presenter: P.E.I. Multicultural Council (902) 368-8393

Jun 15-Oct 15 Charlottetown Vancouver-based artist Korean Jin-me Yoon to produce photo-based work for publication. Presenter: Arts Atlantic Magazine (902) 628-6138

Jun 15-Nov 2 Charlottetown Installation of photo-based work by Vancouver artist, Korean Jin-me Yoon. Presenter: Confederation Centre Art Gallery (902) 628-6121

Jun 22 Charlottetown*
Tabla player and teacher Vineet Vyas performs in Charlottetown.
Presenter: Vineet Vyas (902) 895-2595

Jul 2-3 Charlottetown Workshops on Japanese Healing and Caring Rituals and Ceremonies. Presenter: Regional Co-op Development Centre (902) 894-7232

Jul 4-6 Wellington Japanese drum group Arashi Daiko from Montreal joining Acadian dance groups. Presenter: Festival Mondial de Danse, PEI (902) 854-2647

Jul 11-13 Charlottetown Wayson Choy, author of "The Jade Peony," delivers two half-day workshops and readings. Presenter: P.E.I. Writers Guild at Reading Well Bookstore (902) 626-3082

Sep 7-Nov 2 Charlottetown*
Brings together art produced in Japanese and Nova Scotia schools, demonstrating the importance of visual art in education.
Presenter: Confederation Centre (902) 457-6160

* Touring Exhibit

Newfoundland and Labrador Cultural Projects for Canada's Year of Asia Pacific - 1997

Jun 1-Dec 31 Atlantic Wide*

Slide talks on natural dyes of Asia Pacific.

Presenter: Karen Diadick Casselman (902) 633-2837. (Please call for exact dates)

Jun 20-23 St. John's

Woodpecker Singers from Taiwan performing at Cabot choral festival in

Newfoundland.

Presenter: Festival 500 Sharing the Voices (709) 729-4535

Jul 5 St. John's

Cultural show highlights group dances, instrument recitals, costumes.

Presenter: Friends of India Association (709) 753-3958

Jul 12 St. John's

Traditional and contemporary Chinese songs and dance performances.

Presenter: Chinese Association of Newfoundland & Labrador (709) 726-9538

Aug 22-23 St. John's

Opening of new Karate Centre, exhibition and lecture by grand master Jung Soo Park.

Presenter: Korean Association of Newfoundland & Labrador (709) 726-3608

Oct 14-19 St. John's

Workshop in Oriental papermaking by Evelyn David from Indigo Studios, Edmonton

(Oct. 15-16). Public slide lecture (Oct. 19).

Presenter: Visual Artists Newfoundland & Labrador (709) 738-7303

Oct 16-Nov 10 St. John's

Exhibition and show of "art to wear" with workshops with Naoko Furue.

Presenter: Devon House Craft Gallery (709) 753-2749

Nov 18-Dec 2 Happy Valley

Professor Phuthorn Bhumadhan from Thepsastri Teachers College in Thailand participates in the Annual Labrador Children's Festival. Internet exchange follows.

Presenter: Labrador Creative Arts Festival (709) 896-2431

Dec 15 St. John's

Research on Asia Pacific artifacts from Newfoundland collections presented in introductory slide talks.

Presenter: Art Gallery of Newfoundland & Labrador (709) 737-8210

^{*} Touring Exhibit



June 26, 1997

No. 108

CANADA CALLS FOR BINDING DISPUTE SETTLEMENT FOLLOWING U.S. REJECTION OF FINAL OFFER

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Fisheries and Oceans Minister David Anderson proposed today that the Pacific salmon dispute with the United States be resolved through binding dispute settlement, following the United States' rejection of Canada's final offer.

"This outcome is very disappointing. Canada was ready to make a deal that would create a more stable regime and uphold the principles of the Pacific Salmon Treaty," said Mr. Axworthy.

"After months of negotiations, the U.S. offer has not changed significantly. We need a new approach. Under the current circumstances, the best way to resolve the issue is to refer it to binding dispute settlement to obtain a long-term solution that will ensure conservation and equitable sharing of the resource," added the Minister.

"Canada made a fair and constructive proposal. It addressed conservation concerns and would be consistent with the principles of the Pacific Salmon Treaty," said Mr. Anderson. "The U.S. showed inflexibility by refusing to moderate its demands. However, Canada will not allow the salmon resource to suffer the consequences. We will establish our own fishing arrangements so that conservation is paramount. We will be announcing these arrangements shortly."

Both ministers called upon the United States to show restraint in this year's fisheries.

Following an intense series of negotiations, which ended on June 20 without agreement, Canada made a final comprehensive proposal on June 23. Months of negotiations involving stakeholders and governments have failed to resolve the long-standing dispute, leaving each side to establish its own fishing arrangements.

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien raised his concerns about salmon with President Bill Clinton at the Denver Summit, urging U.S. flexibility in negotiations, as Minister Axworthy has done on numerous occasions with his American counterpart, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.





For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Bonnie Mewdell Office of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (613) 992-3474

This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca



June 27,1997

No. 109

AXWORTHY TO ATTEND HONG KONG HANDOVER CEREMONIES

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy will represent Canada at the Hong Kong handover on June 30 and July 1, 1997.

"Canada has an important stake in Hong Kong and our participation at the handover recognizes the significance of this historic event to the future of Hong Kong," said Mr. Axworthy. "Canada intends to maintain a close relationship with the new Hong Kong administration, led by Mr. Tung Chee-hwa. At the same time, we want to convey that Canada expects China to live up to its commitments regarding Hong Kong's autonomy, its institutions and way of life."

During his visit, Mr. Axworthy plans to hold a bilateral meeting with Chief Executive Designate Tung Chee-hwa on July 2, and will also meet with Democratic Party Chairman Martin Lee on July 1 and Chief Secretary of the Hong Kong Government Anson Chan on June 30.

Mr. Axworthy noted that Canada has repeatedly voiced its concerns regarding the formation of the Provisional Legislature. During Mr. Axworthy's visit to China and Hong Kong in April, the Chinese government expressed its commitment to hold democratic elections within one year of the July 1, 1997, transition date.

While in Hong Kong, Minister Axworthy will also host an event to mark Canada Day on July 1 at the Consulate General.

Canada has important human and economic interests in Hong Kong. As Canada's 10th-largest trading partner, Hong Kong is an increasingly important trade and commercial centre for Canadian business. With over 100 000 Canadians resident in the territory, the Canadian community in Hong Kong is the largest in Asia.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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June 27, 1997 Release No. 110

AXWORTHY ANNOUNCES DATES FOR LANDMINE TREATY CONFERENCE

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today invited all countries of the world to come to Ottawa, Canada, from December 2 to 4, 1997, to sign a legally binding treaty to ban the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of anti-personnel mines.

"Last October, I invited the international community to return to Ottawa before the end of 1997 with the goal of signing a treaty banning anti-personnel mines. It is now clear that we will reach this goal. In Ottawa, from December 2 to 4, we will be able to establish a new global norm against these terrible weapons," said Mr. Axworthy.

The invitation was extended today, on Minister Axworthy's behalf, by Belgian Foreign Minister Eric Derycke at the close of an international conference on landmines in Brussels, Belgium. The Brussels Conference (June 24-27) was attended by delegations from 153 countries and more than 100 non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Ninety-seven of those countries committed themselves to the Ottawa Process by signing The Brussels Declaration, at the conclusion of this conference.

The Declaration commits governments to participating in the formal diplomatic negotiations in Oslo, Norway, in September, and to the goal of signing a comprehensive ban-treaty in Ottawa in December. Over the coming months, Canada, along with other committed nations, international agencies and NGOs, will continue a vigorous effort to encourage as many countries as possible to come to Ottawa in December to sign this treaty.

"I commend the initiative of the Government of Belgium in hosting this conference," said Mr. Axworthy. "The global momentum surrounding this issue is incredible. The participating governments and NGOs in the Brussels Conference have sent the message that they are ready to act decisively to ban antipersonnel mines," he added.



The Minister also conveyed his thanks to both the Government of Norway for agreeing to host negotiations of a treaty text in September and the Government of Austria for its work in preparing the draft treaty, which will be the basis for the Oslo negotiations.

Among the 97 countries that signed the Brussels Declaration are some of the most recent supporters of the Ottawa Process, including France, Italy, Spain, Malaysia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Brazil, Yemen and Angola.

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June 30, 1997

No. 111

CANADA REAFFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT TO CANADIAN MAGAZINES IN WTO TRADE DISPUTE

Minister for International Trade Sergio Marchi and Canadian Heritage Minister Sheila Copps today expressed their continued commitment to maintaining a distinctly Canadian magazine industry after receiving the results of the final report of the World Trade Organization (WTO) on Canadian measures to promote the magazine industry.

The WTO Appellate Body ruled against Canada on its appeal of the excise tax measure, while supporting the United States in its arguments against the postal subsidy.

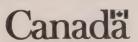
"We've just received the ruling and will have to look at it carefully to assess our options," said Ms Copps. "Obviously, we'll be looking at new ways to attain our policy objectives that are consistent with the WTO ruling. We recognize the importance of advertising revenues to the industry. This industry must continue to exist and to provide a dynamic forum for the expression of Canadian ideas and interests."

The federal government has been working in close consultation with the Canadian magazine industry throughout the WTO process.

"I know that Canadians expect us to achieve the right balance between trade and cultural objectives," said Mr. Marchi.
"Although we are disappointed by this ruling, we recognize the value of being part of a rules-based system which has served Canada well. However, Ms. Copps and I will continue to work closely together, in co-operation with the industry, to ensure the achievement of our shared objectives."

The appeal follows a decision in March in which the WTO ruled on four Canadian measures relating to magazines. At that time, the WTO panel decided against Canada on three of the measures: Canada's Tariff Code 9958, which prohibits the importation of split-run magazines; Part V.1 of Canada's Excise Tax Act, which places an 80 per cent excise tax on advertising placed in split-





run magazines circulating in Canada; and the commercial publications mail rates, which differentiate between domestic and foreign mail rates.

In that March decision, the panel ruled in Canada's favour on maintenance of the postal subsidy program, which allows certain Canadian periodicals to reach their subscribers at lower rates. This decision was appealed by the United States. Canada appealed the negative ruling on the excise tax, arguing that the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade should not apply to measures affecting advertising services.

Both ministers stressed that the WTO decision does not suddenly change the rules of business in the Canadian magazine sector, and that only the Parliament of Canada has the power to make or amend legislation. Canada's rules and regulations governing magazine advertising in Canada remain in force, and foreign publishers must continue to abide by them.

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For further Information, media representatives may contact:

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Charles Larabie Director of Communications Office of the Minister for International Trade (613) 992-7332

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

News Release

July 4, 1997

No. 112

AXWORTHY TO ATTEND NATO SUMMIT AND MEETING OF COMMONWEALTH MINISTERIAL ACTION GROUP

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy will take part in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Summit with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien in Madrid on July 8 and 9. Mr. Axworthy will also attend the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) meeting on July 10 and 11 in London, where he will be accompanied by Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) David Kilgour.

The leaders of the 16 NATO member countries will meet to discuss NATO enlargement, partnerships with non-NATO countries and internal reform of the Alliance. While in Madrid, Minister Axworthy will also meet with the new Chair of the European Union (EU) Council of Ministers, Jacques Poos, who is also the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Luxembourg, and Sir Leon Brittan, Vice President of the European Commission, for a Canada-EU Ministerial Meeting on July 7.

The CMAG meeting will hear representations from a number of Nigerian, pan-Commonwealth and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on the situation in Nigeria. CMAG members will also discuss conditions in Sierra Leone and the Gambia.

"Canada has consistently promoted CMAG consultation with nongovernmental organizations to gain a balanced understanding of the situation in Nigeria," said Mr. Axworthy. "These NGOs will provide us with valuable insight through their frontline knowledge and work on human rights in Nigeria."

Representations at the meeting will be made by Nigerian NGOs such as the National Democratic Coalition of Nigeria, the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People, the Democratic Alliance of Women of Nigeria and the Civil Liberties Organization.

Sierra Leone, like all members of the Commonwealth, has undertaken to uphold the fundamentals of the Harare Declaration: the promotion of democracy, respect for human rights and good governance. The forcible overthrow of President Kabbah's elected



government is unacceptable and even more tragic in light of the progress made in Sierra Leone toward democracy, peace and economic reconstruction since early 1996.

CMAG was created in 1995 at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in New Zealand, following an initiative by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien to increase the Commonwealth's effectiveness in promoting democracy. It will meet again in September to discuss these issues and will prepare a report to submit to Commonwealth leaders at CHOGM 1997 in Edinburgh, October 24-27.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca



July 4, 1997

No. 113

CANADA-CHILE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT TO BE IMPLEMENTED JULY 5

Legislation to implement the Canada-Chile Free Trade Agreement has been approved by the Chilean Senate, and the agreement will enter into force on July 5, International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi announced today.

"This is a significant agreement for both nations, and gives Canadian companies privileged access to a dynamic South American market, " said Mr. Marchi. "It will not only create jobs in both countries, but is an important first step to even closer trade relations with other strong economies in South America."

The Environmental and Labour Side Agreements will also come into force, ensuring that respect for environment and labour laws is a vital component of the economic prosperity that comes with trade liberalization.

"The Environmental Side Agreement will strengthen the environmental partnership between Canada and Chile, " said Environment Minister Christine Stewart. "The Agreement will encourage environmentally responsible trade through enhanced cooperation between our two countries and with the Canadian environmental community, and the effective enforcement of environmental laws."

"This labour agreement demonstrates Canada's commitment to cooperation on labour issues, " said Labour Minister Lawrence MacAulay. "The protection and enforcement of basic workers' rights are our major goals, and we are dedicated to improving the working conditions and living standards of our workers."

The agreement was formally signed in Chile on December 5, 1996. Legislation to put the agreement into law in Canada received royal assent on April 25, 1997.

The trade agreement's key features are as follows:

Immediate duty-free access for 75 per cent of Canadian exports and the elimination of Chile's 11-per-cent import duty on almost all remaining industrial and resource-based goods over five years.



- Much better access for a range of agricultural goods. For example, tariffs for durum wheat, which represents 35 per cent of exports in this sector, will be eliminated immediately.
- Significant new protection for Canadian investments in Chile, including an agreement to automatically grant Canadian investors the benefits of any future liberalization, and an undertaking to negotiate a bilateral double taxation agreement.
- The creation of a Free Trade Commission and secretariat to ensure the timely and effective resolution of disputes.
- Side agreements on environment and labour, the first agreements of this nature ever signed by the Government of Chile.
- The mutual elimination of anti-dumping duties within a maximum of six years.

The agreement also exempts cultural industries and supply-managed products, fully protects social and health services, and does not affect the Auto Pact.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Mark Colpitts
Office of the Minister of the Environment
(819) 997-1441

Don Wilson Office of the Minister of Labour (819) 953-5643

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca under the News Releases heading. The Canada-Chile Free Trade Agreement is also available on the site under Trade Agreements, and on diskette through the Department's InfoCentre at (613) 944-4000 or 1-800-267-8376.

The Canada-Chile Agreement on Environmental Cooperation is available on The Green Line, Environment Canada's Web site, at http://www.ec.gc.ca/relations_e.html

The full text of the Canada-Chile Agreement on Labour Cooperation is available on the Labour Branch Web site at http://labour-travail.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca

July 7, 1997 No. 114

MARCHI TO VISIT WASHINGTON

Minister for International Trade Sergio Marchi will visit Washington, D.C., on July 9 to discuss a variety of trade issues with United States Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky and other senior officials.

"It is important, in my first few weeks as International Trade Minister, to meet with representatives of our largest and most important trade partner," said Mr. Marchi. "Canada is committed to working with the United States under NAFTA and on further trade liberalization in this hemisphere and in global markets."

Some of the topics expected to be discussed include the Free Trade Area of the Americas, Russian and Chinese accession to the World Trade Organization, and various bilateral and multilateral trade issues.

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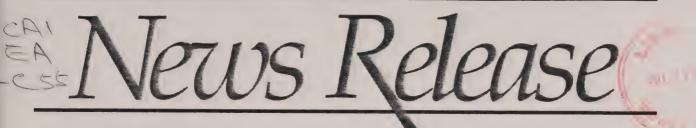
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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca under the *Publications* heading.





July 9, 1997

No. 115

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CANADA WELCOMES START OF TALKS ON CYPRUS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy welcomes the start of talks between the political leaders of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities, which began today in Troutbeck, New York, under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN).

"Canada is encouraged to see the beginning of talks on Cyprus, and we hope that they will prove successful in resolving the longstanding intercommunal conflict," said Mr. Axworthy. "I appeal to the two parties to co-operate fully with the UN Secretary-General in initiating a peace process that will result in a permanent resolution of this conflict."

Michael Bell, Canada's Special Representative on Cyprus, attended the opening of talks along with special envoys or representatives from the European Commission and 13 other countries.

Canada participated in peacekeeping operations in Cyprus for 29 years, until 1993, and since then has demonstrated its continued interest in Cyprus, notably through the recent appointment of Mr. Bell, in April 1997.

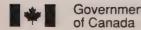
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For further information, media representatives may contact:

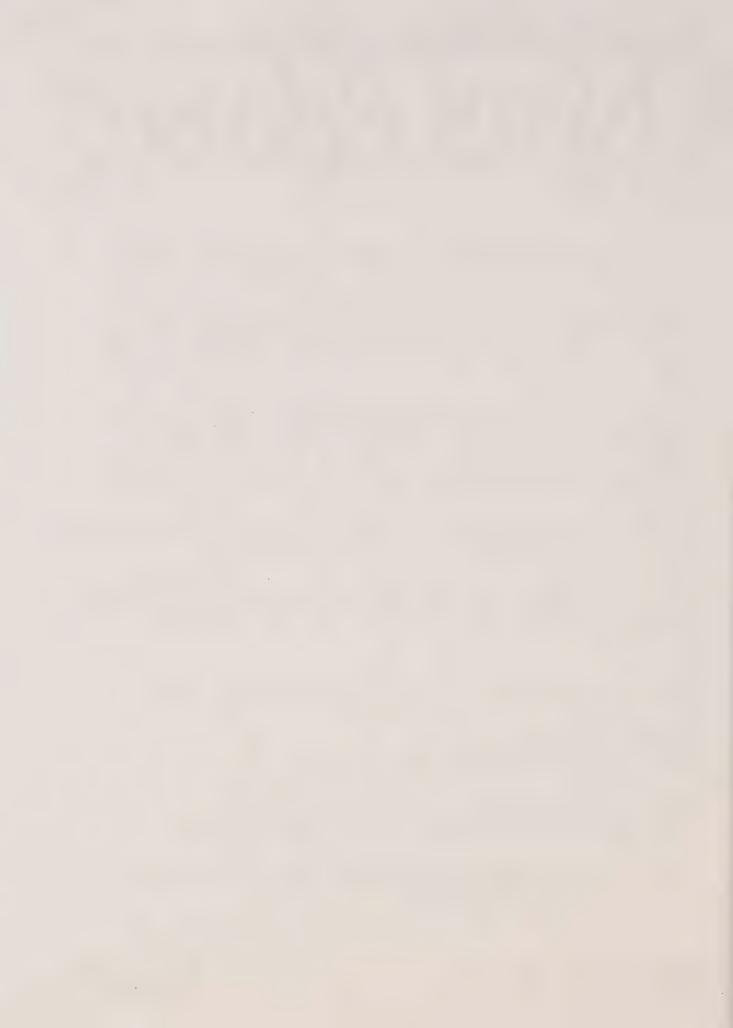
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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca







July 10, 1997 Release No. 116

CANADA CALLS FOR AN END TO VIOLENCE IN CAMBODIA AND WELCOMES AUSTRALIAN ASSISTANCE TO CANADIANS

Minister of Foreign Affairs Lloyd Axworthy today called for an immediate end to violence and a return to political dialogue between forces loyal to First Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh and those loyal to Second Prime Minister Hun Sen.

"Canada is very concerned about the situation in Cambodia. Reports of political killings are extremely disturbing. We deeply regret that many people have lost their lives, including one Canadian," said Mr. Axworthy.

"We expect Cambodia's leaders to abide by the terms of the Paris Accords and to resolve their differences through peaceful political means. We urge that free and fair elections be held as scheduled in 1998."

Although the situation in the Cambodian capital is now relatively calm, the Australian government has decided to offer Australian Defence Force flights on Friday, July 11, given the lack of available commercial flights. The offer has been extended to Australian, Canadian, New Zealand and Swedish citizens.

"Canada is very grateful to the Australian Embassy in Phnom Penh for the assistance that it provides to Canadian citizens in Cambodia," said Mr. Axworthy. "We particularly appreciate that they are facilitating the departure of those Canadians who wish to leave at this time."

The Government of Canada is advising Canadians to avoid travel to Cambodia at this time. Canadians seeking further information and guidance can call 1-800-387-3124 or 943-1055 (Ottawa).

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

July 11, 1997

No. 117

DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced the following diplomatic appointments:

Gilles Bernier, becomes Ambassador to the Republic of Haiti.

Peter M. Boehm, becomes Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States in Washington.

Alexandra Bugailiskis, becomes Ambassador to the Syrian Arab Republic.

Keith H. Christie, becomes Ambassador to the Republic of Cuba.

Mary Clancy, becomes Consul General in Boston (United States of America).

Graeme C. Clark, becomes Ambassador to the Republic of Peru with concurrent accreditation to the Republic of Bolivia.

Paul Dubois, becomes Ambassador to the Republic of Austria with concurrent accreditation as Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and as Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the International Organizations in Vienna.

Raphael Girard, becomes Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, with concurrent accreditation to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Bernard Giroux, becomes Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand, with concurrent accreditation to the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Fredericka Gregory, becomes Minister in Berlin (Federal Republic of Germany).

Marius Grinius, becomes Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

Ronald Halpin, becomes Ambassador to the Czech Republic with concurrent accreditation to the Slovak Republic.



Wayne Hammond, becomes High Commissioner to the United Republic of Tanzania, with concurrent accreditation to the Republic of Seychelles, and as Ambassador, to the Democratic Republic of Madagascar.

Sara S. Hradecky, becomes Consul General in Ho Chi Minh City (Viet Nam).

Lawrence David Lederman, becomes Ambassador to the Republic of Chile.

Peter M. Lloyd, becomes High Commissioner to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Craig T. MacDonald, becomes Ambassador to the Republic of Finland.

Marie-Lucie Morin, becomes Ambassador to the Kingdom of Norway with concurrent accreditation to the Republic of Iceland.

Mary Mosser, becomes Ambassador and Deputy Head of Delegation to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Robert Noble, becomes Ambassador to the Gabonese Republic.

Franco D. Pillarella, becomes Ambassador to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

J. Christopher Poole, becomes Consul General in Chicago (United States of America).

Valerie Raymond, becomes High Commissioner to New Zealand with concurrent accreditation to the Kingdom of Tonga, the Independent State of Western Samoa, the Republic of Kiribati, and Tuvalu.

Colin Russel, becomes Consul General in Hong Kong (People's Republic of China).

John Treleaven, becomes Ambassador to the Republic of the Philippines.

Anthony G. Vincent, becomes Ambassador to the Kingdom of Spain with concurrent accreditation to the Principality of Andorra.

Gardiner James Wilson, becomes High Commissioner to Brunei.

David Wright, becomes Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the North Atlantic Council.

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Biographical notes on the appointees are attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Gilles Bernier (educated at Collège Sainte-Marie, Montréal), a former member of Parliament, has been a broadcaster and Director of Personnel and Programming for la Radio de la Beauce, as well as a hotel/restaurant manager. He was first elected to the House of Commons in 1984 as the member for Beauce. He was re-elected in the general elections of 1988 and 1993. From 1993 to 1997, Mr. Bernier was Chair of the Standing Committee on Official Languages. He is a former President of the Chamber of Commerce and Council for Tourism for the Beauce region. He is married to Doris Rodrigue and they have four children. Mr. Bernier succeeds Christopher Poole.

Peter M. Boehm (BA Honours, Wilfrid Laurier University, 1977; MA, Carleton University, 1978; PhD, University of Edinburgh, 1983) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1981. A native of Kitchener, Ontario, he has had two postings at missions abroad, in Havana and San José. At headquarters, he has occupied a number of positions, notably as Director of the Economic Summit Coordination Division, where he served from 1993 to 1995. Most recently, Mr. Boehm has been Director of the South America and Inter-America Division where he has served since 1995. Mr. Boehm is married to Julia Wayand and they have three children. He succeeds Brian Dickson.

Alexandra Bugailiskis (BA Honours, Carleton University, 1979; MA, Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, 1992) entered the Foreign Service in 1982. Since joining the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade she has served abroad in Accra and Guatemala. In Ottawa, she has held positions in a number of divisions, including the Anglophone Africa, and the United Nations Affairs Divisions. Her most recent assignment was as Director of the Caribbean and Central America Relations Division, a position to which she was named in 1994. She is married to Lt. Col. Alexander Fieglar and they have two children. Ms. Bugailiskis succeeds John McNee.

Keith H. Christie (BA Honours, University of Toronto, 1971; DPhil, Oxford University, 1974) entered the Foreign Service in 1976 after a period of lecturing at the Universities of Reading and British Columbia. A Rhodes Scholar (British Columbia, 1971), Mr. Christie has had postings in Brasilia and Lima. His headquarters assignments have included Latin America Division, GATT Affairs Division, and the Multilateral Trade Negotiations Branch. In 1991, he was a Director in the Office of North American Free Trade Negotiations, leaving in 1992 to become Director of the Economic and Trade Policy Division. During 1995-96, he was concurrently Canada's Chief Negotiator of the Canada-Chile Free Trade Agreement. Since 1996, he has been serving on secondment in the Privy Council Office as Assistant Deputy Minister for Federal-Provincial Relations. Mr. Christie is

married to Liliana Zapata and they have two children. He succeeds Mark Entwistle.

Mary Clancy (BA Honours, Mount Saint Vincent University, 1970; LLB, Dalhousie University, 1974; LLM, University of London, 1975), a lawyer, broadcaster, actor and journalist, was born in Halifax. She was in private practice from 1978 to 1988, and simultaneously a university lecturer (1979-88) and a CBC broadcaster (1984-88). First elected to the House of Commons in the general election of 1988 as the member for Halifax, she was re-elected in 1993. Ms. Clancy was appointed Critic for the Status of Women in 1989 (reappointed in 1990), and Associate Critic for Privatization. She was Associate Critic for Communications in 1990 and served from 1993 to 1996 as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Citizenship and Immigration. From 1996 to 1997 she was Chair of the Standing Committee on Defence and Veterans' Affairs. She has served on the Boards of Governors for the Ecology Action Centre, the YWCA, the Atlantic Ballet Company and the Home of the Guardian Angel and Seaweed Theatre. Ms. Clancy has also been on the Boards of Governors for Mount Saint Vincent and Dalhousie Universities. Ms. Clancy succeeds the Honourable Donald W. Cameron.

Graeme C. Clark (BA, University of Toronto, 1982; MLitt Studies, Oxford University, 1986) joined the Department of External Affairs and International Trade in 1989. He has previously served in the Canadian Embassy in San José. At headquarters, he has had assignments in a number of divisions, most recently in the International Security and Defence Relations Division, and beginning in September 1993, as Departmental Legislative Assistant in the Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Since 1995 he has served in the Prime Minister's Office as Legislative Assistant. He succeeds Anthony Vincent.

Paul Dubois (BA, Séminaire de Saint-Hyacinthe, 1969; BCL, McGill University, 1973) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1973. He has served abroad at Canadian Embassies in Bangkok, Abidjan and Bonn. From 1990 to 1994 he was Minister and Deputy Permanent Representative to the Office of the United Nations in Geneva. From 1992 to 1994, he was also Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada to the Conference on Disarmament. In Ottawa, he had several assignments in the Legal Bureau, the last of which was as Director of the Economic and Trade Law Division from 1986 to 1990. In 1994 he became Director General of Western Europe Bureau now called the European Union, Northern and Western Europe Bureau. He is married to Mechthild Dubois-Utters and they have two sons. He succeeds Peter Walker.

Raphael Girard (BA, University of British Columbia, 1963) joined the Foreign Service of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration in 1963. He has had postings in missions abroad in London (twice), Beirut, Belgrade, and Rome. He has specialized in

refugee law and policy, both in the Department of External Affairs and in the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, including assignments as Director General of Refugee Affairs and Executive Head of the Refugee Determination Task Force. He acted as advisor to several ministers and led a variety of Canadian delegations at international conferences in Geneva and elsewhere. In 1995, he was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations at Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Mr. Girard is married to Sylvie Doucet and has five children. He succeeds Dennis Snider.

Bernard Giroux (BA, University of Montreal, 1968; BA Honours, McGill University, 1970; MSc, [Economic studies], University of Montreal, 1971) joined the Trade Commissioner Service in 1971. He has seen service abroad in Manila, Minneapolis, Brussels (the Mission to the European Community), Seoul and Boston. In Ottawa, he has held a number of positions including Director of the Trade Commissioner Service Personnel Division, and Director of the United States Trade and Tourism Development Division. In 1994 he was named Director General of the United States Trade, Tourism and Investment Development Bureau and since 1996 has served as Director General of the International Business Planning Bureau. Mr. Giroux is married to Marjolaine Martin. He succeeds Manfred von Nostitz.

Fredericka Gregory (BA Honours, Queen's University, 1978; International Relations Program, University of Vienna, 1977) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1982. She has served abroad at the Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York, and most recently as Economic Counsellor at the Canadian Embassy in Paris. At headquarters, Ms. Gregory has worked in such areas as South and Southeast Asia relations, economic relations with developing countries, and in the departmental media relations office. She has been Deputy Director of the Western Europe Relations Division and Deputy Director and Economic Summit Co-ordinator in the International Economic Relations Division. Ms. Gregory succeeds Adriaan de Hoog.

Marius Grinius (BA, Royal Military College, Kingston, 1971) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1979. He has spent a good part of his career in missions abroad, beginning with Bangkok, where he served twice, Brussels (at the North Atlantic Council) and Hanoi, where he was Chargé d'Affaires from 1991 to 1993. At headquarters, he served in the Arms Control and Disarmament Division and is currently Director of the Southeast Asia Division (since 1993). He succeeds Christine Desloges.

Ronald Halpin (BA Honours, Royal Military College, 1971), originally from Pine Falls, Manitoba, joined the Department of External Affairs in 1975 after military service, including peacekeeping in Cyprus. Mr. Halpin has served in Canadian embassies in Pretoria, Moscow and Warsaw. At headquarters, he has worked in such areas as the Political and Strategic Analysis

Division, the USSR and Eastern Europe Relations Division and the Personnel Division. He was Senior Advisor for Security and Counter-terrorism from 1992 to 1995. He was most recently Director General of the Resource Planning and Management Bureau. Mr. Halpin is married to Françoise Lacasse and they have two children. Mr. Halpin succeeds Alain Dudoit.

Wayne Hammond (BA Honours, University of Waterloo, 1965; MA, University of Waterloo, 1966; PhD, University of British Columbia, 1974) joined the Department of Manpower and Immigration in 1972 after a period as a lecturer at the University of Winnipeg and at Saint Mary's University. He has seen service in missions in Nairobi, London (twice) and Pretoria. In 1990, he was appointed High Commissioner to the Republic of Namibia, where he served until 1993. In Ottawa, he has served in a number of capacities including as Director of Africa and Middle East Programs at External Affairs and International Trade from 1988 to 1990, Director General of Planning and Resource Development in Citizenship and Immigration's International Service Group from 1993 to 1995, and Project Co-ordinator in that same department since 1995. He will be accompanied to the post by Edwina Wood. Mr. Hammond succeeds Verona Edelstein.

Sara S. Hradecky (BA, Carleton University, 1981; MA, Carleton University, 1983) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1983. In addition to assisting the Delegation to the United Nations General Assembly in the fall of 1994, she has been posted as a trade commissioner to Canadian embassies in Buenos Aires, Belgrade and Tel Aviv. In Israel, she was manager of the Trade Program. She is currently Deputy Director in the Policy and Strategic Planning Division. Ms. Hradecky is the first Canadian Consul General in Ho Chi Minh City.

Lawrence David Lederman (BA, University of Toronto, 1966; MBA, University of Toronto, 1968) joined the Trade Commissioner Service in 1968. Mr. Lederman has been Chief of Protocol for Canada since February 1993. Prior to that appointment, he served on the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Monitor Mission in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and as Consul General for Canada in Cleveland, Ohio (1987 to 1992). Mr. Lederman has also served in the commercial and economic divisions of Canadian embassies in Brussels, Berne, Caracas and in the Canadian Consulate General in Munich. His assignments at headquarters in Ottawa have included that of Deputy Director, Personnel, Trade Commissioner Service (1972 to 1975) Director of the Africa and Middle East Programs Division (1983 to 1985), Director of Western Europe II Trade Development Division (1985 to 1986), and Senior Advisor, International Appointments in the Bureau of Personnel (1986 to 1987). He is married to Patricia Morrison and they have two children. Mr. Lederman succeeds Marc Lortie.

Peter M. Lloyd (BA, University of Toronto, 1969) was a journalist with the Canadian Press, the Toronto Star and CTV News from 1969 to 1982. He then became Director of Public Relations and Information Services at the University of Ottawa before entering the Department of External Affairs in 1986. From 1986 to 1988, he was Director General of the International Trade Communications Group. He served as Director General of the Corporate and Media Communications Bureau from 1988 until 1993. Since 1993, he has been Director General of the Communications Bureau. He is married to Geri Horsford and they have two children. Mr. Lloyd succeeds Marc Lemieux.

Craig T. MacDonald (BA, University of Toronto, 1963; MBA, University of Toronto, 1965) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1965. He has served abroad in Washington, Bangkok, Teheran, and Brussels (the Mission to the European Community). His assignments in Ottawa have included Director of the Political/Economic Personnel Division at headquarters, as well as secondments as Director General at the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, and Director General of the Trade Policy and International Affairs Branch of the Department of Industry, Science and Technology. From 1994 to 1996, he was Director General of International Business Programs. Since 1996 he has been a Fellow at the Center for International Affairs at Harvard University. He is married to Rosemary MacDonald and they have two sons. Mr. MacDonald succeeds Isabelle Massip.

Marie-Lucie Morin (DEC, Collège de Sherbrooke, 1976; LL L, University de Sherbrooke, 1979; admitted to Quebec Bar in 1980) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1980. She has served abroad as a trade commissioner in San Francisco, Jakarta and London. Ms. Morin was appointed Minister-Counsellor (Commercial) in the Canadian Embassy in Moscow, where she has served since 1994. Her most recent assignment at headquarters was as Director of the Financial and Business Services Division from 1990 to 1994. She is married to Nicolas Temnikov and they have four children. Ms. Morin succeeds François Mathys.

Mary Mosser (BA, University of Toronto, 1964; MA, University of Toronto, 1966), born in Toronto, Ontario, joined the Department of External Affairs in 1973 and served abroad in Singapore, Paris and Moscow. From 1992 to 1994, she was Chargé d'affaires in Belgrade. Ms. Mosser was nominated as High Commissioner in Lusaka where she has served since 1994. In Ottawa, she worked in the areas of Aid and Development, Commodity and Energy Policy, and held positions of Deputy Director in the Science, Technology and Nuclear Division, and Deputy Director (Eastern Europe) in the USSR and Eastern Europe Relations Division. Ms. Mosser succeeds Peter McKellar.

Robert Noble (BA, University of Toronto, 1970) joined the Trade Commissioner Service in 1974 after a period of work in the

private sector and the Ontario government. In the course of his career to date, Mr. Noble has had postings in Mexico, Dakar and Madrid, returning to Mexico from 1993 to 1995 where he was Minister-Counsellor (Commercial/Economic). In Ottawa, he has served in a variety of capacities, including a secondment to the Canadian Exporters Association as Director of Government Liaison responsible for Industrial Co-operation projects in Central and Southern Africa from 1983 to 1987. Most recently, he has been Director of the Central Europe Division. Mr. Noble is married to Janet Boyer and they have one daughter. He succeeds Louise Charron Fortin.

Franco D. Pillarella (BA, University of Ottawa, 1963; LL L University of Ottawa, 1966; member of the Quebec Bar, 1967) joined the Foreign Service in 1967. He has served abroad in Bonn, Milan, Rome, Algiers, The Hague and as Consul General in Berlin from 1988 to 1992. At headquarters, he has had broad experience, serving in a number of divisions, including the Legal Operations Division and the Francophone Institutions Division. From 1986 to 1988 he was Director of the Human Rights and Social Affairs Division. He is currently Director of the Foreign Intelligence Division. Mr. Pillarella succeeds Jacques Noiseux.

J. Christopher Poole (BA Honours [Economics], University of British Columbia, 1966; MA, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy [Tufts and Harvard Universities], 1967) joined the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce in 1967 and served abroad in Brussels, Abidjan, Bucharest and San Francisco. In 1990 he was appointed as Ambassador to Iraq and joined Canadian nationals in Baghdad who were detained and then released prior to the Gulf War. From 1992 to 1996 he served as Ambassador to the State of Kuwait. Since 1996, he has been Ambassador to the Republic of Haiti. In Ottawa, Mr. Poole has held a number of international trade positions. From 1987 to 1990, he was seconded to the Government of British Columbia as Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for international trade development. From 1973 to 1976, he worked in the private sector on executive interchange to Canada's largest forest products company, MacMillan Bloedel Ltd. He is married to Linda Nelsen. Mr. Poole succeeds Alan Lever.

Valerie Raymond (BA Honours, University of Guelph, 1974; BJ Honours, Carleton University, 1976), born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, entered the Department of External Affairs in 1986 after serving at the Departments of Energy, Mines and Resources, Employment and Immigration and Status of Women Canada. A former journalist, she served as Director of External Communications and International Sports Relations between 1986 and 1990. In 1992, she was appointed Director of the Human Rights, Women's Equality and Social Affairs Division, following two years as Director of the International Women's Equality Division. In 1994-95 she was named Executive Director of the United Nations World Conference on Women Secretariat at Status of Women Canada, also serving as

Canada's Alternate Representative at the Conference in Beijing. Returning to headquarters in late 1995, she was appointed Coordinator for the Habitat II Summit — the UN World Conference on Human Settlements — in the Global Issues Bureau, serving as Canada's Representative at the Summit in Istanbul. Ms. Raymond was appointed Director of the Arts and Cultural Industries Promotion Division in 1996. She is married to Ronald Verzuh and they have one daughter. Ms. Raymond succeeds Robert A. Wright.

Colin Russel (BEng, McGill University, 1962; MBA, McGill University, 1971) joined the Trade Commissioner Service in 1971 after a period in the private sector. He has served in Hong Kong (twice) Madrid, Rabat, Manila, London and New Delhi. His headquarters assignments have included Director of the Japan Trade Development Division and, since 1993, Director of the China Division. Mr. Russel is married to Linden Russel and they have three children. He succeeds Garrett Lambert.

John Treleaven (BA, University of Toronto, 1967; MA studies, University of Toronto, 1968) joined the Trade Commissioner Service in 1969. From his entry into public service until the present he has served abroad in Sao Paulo, San Juan, London, San José, Hong Kong and Tokyo, where he was Minister-Counsellor (Commercial) between 1988 and 1992. At headquarters, he has served in a number of positions, including Director of the Pacific Trade Development Division from 1985 to 1986, Director of the Japan Trade Development Division from 1986 to 1988 and as Director General of the International Marketing Bureau from 1992 to 1994, and Director General, Trade Planning and Operations from 1994 to 1996. Since October 1996, he has been seconded to the Privy Council Office Jobs Strategy Task Force. He is married to Beverley Treleaven. Mr. Treleaven succeeds Stephen Heeney.

Anthony G. Vincent (BA, University of Minnesota, 1966) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1969. He has served abroad in The Hague, New Delhi and in Dhaka as High Commissioner with concurrent accreditation as Ambassador to Burma from 1985 to 1989. Since 1994, he has been Ambassador to Peru and Bolivia. In Ottawa he has had a wide range of assignments, including Director of the South and Southeast Asia Relations Division from 1983 to 1985 and Director of Security Division from 1988 to 1992. Mr. Vincent is married to Lucie Houle and they have one daughter. He succeeds David Wright.

Gardiner James Wilson (BA, University of British Columbia, 1966) entered the Department of External Affairs in 1967. Between 1969 and 1989, he was assigned to missions abroad in Bangkok, Teheran, London, Sydney, Singapore and Bangkok. He served in a variety of posts at headquarters in Ottawa, including the Consular, Caribbean and Southeast Asia Relations Divisions. From 1989 to 1992, he served in Vancouver as Senior Vice President with the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada. Since 1993 he has been Deputy

High Commissioner at the Canadian High Commission in Canberra. He and his wife, Suchitra, have one son. Mr. Wilson succeeds Richard Belliveau.

David Wright (BSc, McGill University, 1966; MBA, Columbia University, 1968) joined the Trade Commissioner Service in 1968 and the Department of External Affairs in 1974. In the course of his career, he has seen service abroad in Rome, New York (United Nations), Tokyo and Paris, where he was Minister from 1987 to 1990. Most recently he has been Ambassador in Spain, beginning in 1994. Mr. Wright's assignments at headquarters have included periods as Director General of the Economic Policy Bureau from 1985 to 1987 and as Assistant Deputy Minister for Europe from 1990 to 1994. He is married to Ilze Skuja and has a son. Mr. Wright succeeds John Anderson.



News Release

July 16, 1997

No. 118

AXWORTHY APPLAUDS AMBITIOUS UN REFORM INITIATIVES

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today welcomed United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan's announcement of a major reform package aimed at establishing a more "coherent, strategic and agile UN."

"These new measures, along with those announced by the Secretary-General in January and March, are intended to reshape the UN and make it more relevant and effective," said Mr. Axworthy. "This second package constitutes an ambitious and imaginative effort to streamline UN structures and to ensure that the UN has the means to forecast and address urgent humanitarian and development needs in the world."

The Secretary-General's program comprises over 60 specific actions and recommendations, including several approaches long advocated by Canada. Among these are proposals in the areas of peacebuilding, peacekeeping, development assistance and management reorganization, as well as creation of an International Criminal Court of Justice. Human rights in particular will receive special attention as a cross-cutting issue in all aspects of the UN's work.

"Reforming an institution as complex and vital as the UN is a delicate and difficult task. The Secretary-General has made a major contribution to this essential goal, and his efforts deserve the support of all member states," said Mr. Axworthy. "I urge the Secretary-General to move forward with rapid implementation of the measures under his responsibility and I intend to encourage member states to give positive consideration to those recommendations that require their approval."

The Minister also noted that Canada is campaigning for a non-permanent seat on the Security Council for the term 1999-2000. One of Canada's objectives on the Council will be to advance the reform agenda in the areas of peace and security.

For further information media representatives may contact:

Catherine Lappe Director of Communications Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (613) 995-1851

Media Relations Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca under the *Publications* heading.



No. 119

July 22, 1997

CANADA WELCOMES EUROPEAN APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANE TRAPPING STANDARDS

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today welcomed a decision by the European General Affairs Council to approve the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards.

"This is a very positive achievement for animal welfare and an excellent resolution to a long-standing trade irritant between Canada and the European Union (EU). Together, we have shown that it is possible to develop an agreement that accommodates both environmental and trade considerations, " said Mr. Marchi.

This ambitious agreement lays down stringent and scientificallybased standards for all trapping methods involving mechanical devices used to catch 19 species of wild mammals, regardless of the reasons for their capture, whether for pest control, conservation, fur or food. Parties to the agreement will be obliged to prohibit trapping methods that do not comply with these standards within an established time frame.

"Conclusion of this agreement will ensure the viability of an important industry that employs many thousands of workers in both Canada and the EU. It will also have particular significance for a large number of Aboriginal people in Canada, many of whom played a vital role in conveying the importance of the fur industry to decision makers in the EU," added the Minister.

In November 1991, the EU approved a regulation banning the use of jaw-type leghold traps in the EU as well as the importation of fur and fur products of 13, mainly North American, species from countries that had not prohibited the use of these traps or that do not use trapping methods that meet internationally agreed humane standards. The EU delayed application of the regulation to Canada four times while negotiations were underway. The General Affairs Council, which is composed of foreign ministers of the EU countries, announced its decision to approve the agreement at its meeting today in Brussels.

The fur industry in Canada employs up to 100 000 people - including approximately 80 000 trappers, of whom close to half are Aboriginal people - and generates up to \$600 million in economic activity



annually. Canada, along with the fur industry, has already spent \$11 million on trap research and development over the past decade, with the federal government contributing \$7 million. Canada is continuing to work towards the completion and implementation of its own national trapping standards.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

Lynne Boyer, Media Relations Office Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (819) 997-8404

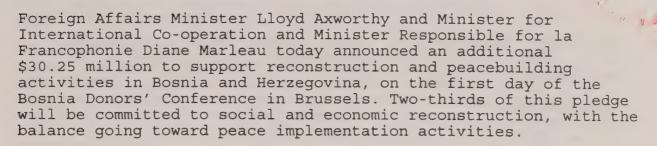
This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

News Release

July 23, 1997

No. 120

CANADA PLEDGES CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR RECONSTRUCTION IN BOSNIA



"Canada believes that, despite current problems in consolidating the peace process, particularly in the Republika Srpska, the international community must continue to show its support for reconstruction and peacebuilding in Bosnia," said Mr. Axworthy. "The international community's support, however, is conditional on the Bosnian Parties' compliance with the December 1995 Peace Agreement, including in the apprehension of persons indicted for war crimes." Mr. Axworthy noted that the success of efforts in Bosnia also hinges upon greater inter-entity and ethnic cooperation.

The Bosnia Donors' Conference, organized by the World Bank and the European Commission, was convened to co-ordinate international reconstruction assistance in Bosnia among various donor countries and to raise US\$1.4 billion in pledges for 1997 reconstruction priorities. The Canadian delegation is being led by Michael Berry, Special Co-ordinator of Reconstruction in the former Yugoslavia.

"An important part of our aid package is focussed on promoting democracy, strengthening free media, and creating a climate of openness and tolerance in Bosnia," Madame Marleau said. "These programs are making a practical contribution to the peace process."

Canada supports a number of essential reconstruction and peacebuilding initiatives in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with funding and expertise, through institutions such as the International Criminal Tribunal For Former Yugoslavia, the International Police



Task Force, the Human Rights Commission, the Provisional Elections Commission, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and Office of the High Representative. Canada also supports activities such as health care reform, the development of a free and independent media, power sector reconstruction, the strengthening of civil society, and the work of institutions with a mandate for civilian peace implementation under the Peace Agreement.

Funding for today's pledge was provided for in the March 1997 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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For further information or backgrounders describing Canada's initiatives in Bosnia and Herzegovina to date, media representatives may contact:

Catherine Lappe Director of Communications Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (613) 995-1851

Matthew Bassett Official Spokesperson Office of the Minister for International Co-operation and Minister Responsible for la Francophonie (819) 953-3160

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca



News Release

July 24, 1997

No. 121

AXWORTHY TO ATTEND ASEAN MEETINGS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy will attend the fourth Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) Regional Forum and Post Ministerial Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from July 27 to 29, 1997.

"Southeast Asia is one of the most dynamic regions of the world and of increasing importance to Canada," said Mr. Axworthy.
"These meetings help build consensus on a broad range of political, economic and security issues important to us all, including the situations in Cambodia and Burma, the illicit trafficking and production of drugs, and the issue of antipersonnel mines."

At these ASEAN meetings, foreign ministers of the nine ASEAN countries (Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei, the Philippines and Viet Nam and new members Laos and Burma) will meet with each of their 10 dialogue partners (Canada, Australia, Korea, Japan, New Zealand, the United States, the European Union, India, China and Russia) to discuss international political, security and economic issues. Canada has been an ASEAN dialogue partner since 1977.

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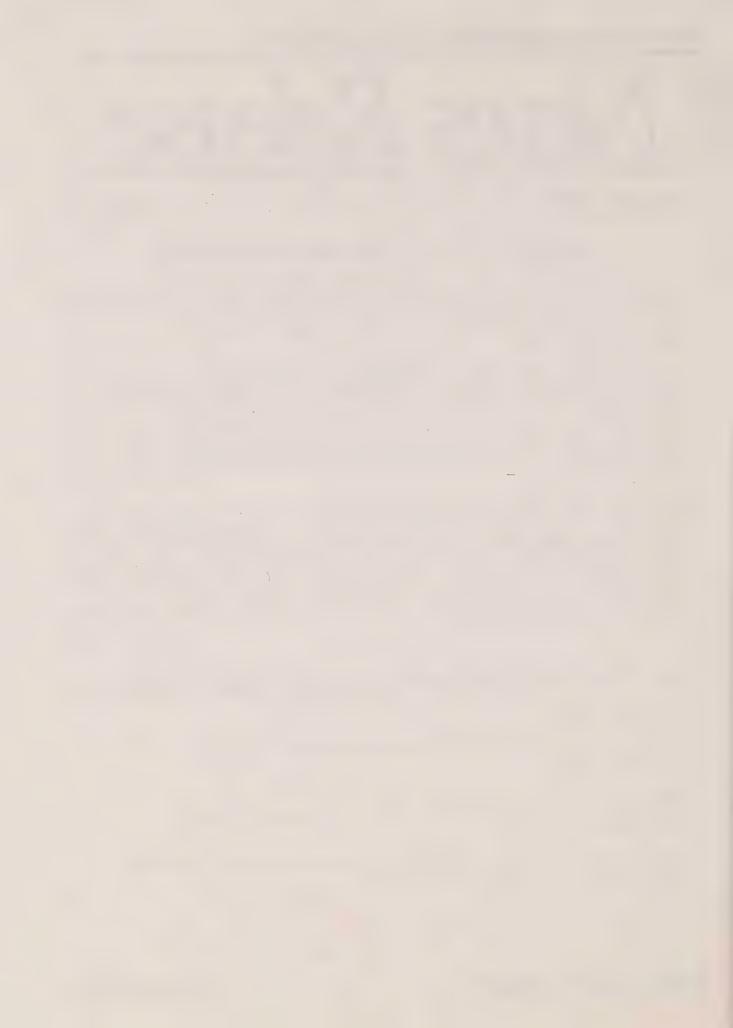
For further information, media representatives may contact:

Catherine Lappe Director of Communications Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (613) 995-1851

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

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News Releas

July 25, 1997

No. 122

CANADA-U.S. PACIFIC SALMON REPRESENTATIVES TO BEGIN WORK IMMEDIATELY

Canadian and U.S. Special Representatives on Pacific salmon will begin work at once on the dispute between Canada and the United States over the Pacific Salmon Treaty, Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Fisheries and Oceans Minister David Anderson announced today.

Dr. David Strangway, President and Vice Chancellor of the University of British Columbia, and his U.S. counterpart, William Ruckelshaus, are charged with giving new energy to negotiations aimed at implementing the Pacific Salmon Treaty's conservation and equity principles.

"Dr. Strangway and Mr. Ruckelshaus will guide future talks among stakeholders in British Columbia, Alaska and the Pacific Northwest," said Mr. Axworthy. "I am confident that they can forge a new spirit of co-operation to resolve this very difficult and vitally important issue. Minister Anderson and I look forward to meeting with Dr. Strangway soon, and we will closely follow the work being done."

"Dr. Strangway is a prominent British Columbian who will work in the best interests of B.C. and Canada," said Mr. Anderson. "It is important that he meet with B.C. stakeholders and Premier Clark as soon as possible."

The Canadian and U.S. governments have also agreed to improve consultations between fisheries officials to ensure early warning of problems for the 1997 fishing season and beyond.

The Special Representatives' authority comes from the Prime Minister of Canada and the President of the United States. They have been asked to report to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Fisheries and Oceans in Canada, and to the Secretary of State in the United States, and to provide recommendations. Their mandate is to reach a solution that makes a real difference before the 1998 fishing season. The representatives are expected to report on their progress before the end of 1997.



Mr. Ruckelshaus is a former head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and is now a Seattle-based businessman.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Catherine Lappe Director of Communications Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (613) 995-1851

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

Athana Mentzelopoulos Office of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (613) 996-0076

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca



CANADIENNE DE

NEWS RELEASE

CAI

July 29, 1997



No. 123

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SASKATCHEWAN CELEBRATES CANADA'S YEAR OF ASIA PACIFIC

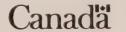
Minister of Natural Resources Ralph Goodale, on behalf of Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, announced today in Regina that a series of events in Saskatchewan have received funding as part of the cultural component of Canada's Year of Asia Pacific (CYAP).

Twenty-six local CYAP cultural projects will be supported in Saskatchewan, ranging from special events and visual arts exhibits to performances and workshops. Over the coming months a series of cultural projects travelling across the country and from abroad will also be presented in the province.

"We are delighted to announce these projects as part of a vast array of national activities taking place in Saskatchewan during Canada's Year of Asia Pacific," said Mr. Goodale. "These initiatives build on the province's commercial links to Asia Pacific and our strong people-to-people ties with the region. This province will take on an even greater role as host of the upcoming APEC FEEEP Symposium [Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Food, Energy, Environment and Economic Development and Population Symposium] during Saskatchewan's Month of Asia Pacific."

"Canada's Year of Asia Pacific will help strengthen and expand our relationship with the Asia Pacific region by promoting increased business opportunities, youth involvement and cultural exchanges," said Mr. Axworthy. "The CYAP cultural program celebrates Canada's cultural ties to the region and recognizes the contribution of Canada's cultural sector to strengthening our relations in Asia Pacific."

The Government of Canada has designated 1997 as Canada's Year of Asia Pacific in honour of its role as this year's Chair of the APEC forum. Activities planned across the country throughout the year include business and trade seminars at the local and national levels, cultural and





youth events, and a series of APEC ministerial meetings. The FEEEP Symposium will take place from September 1 to 4, 1997, in Saskatoon.

CYAP will culminate in the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in November, when the Prime Minister will host economic leaders from Asia Pacific in Vancouver.

Funding of \$73 000 for these projects has been provided for in the February 1997 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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A list of cultural projects receiving CYAP funding is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

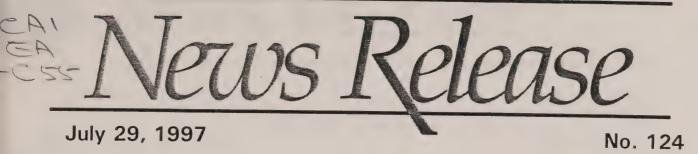
Barbara Pollock CYAP Regional Media Co-ordinator (603) 757-5520

This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

CYAP-Funded Projects - Saskatchewan

Title of Project	Date of Project	Venue	Contact	Phone
Journey of Life	Jan June	Regina	Kodaim Ear	(306) 789-0992
Twin Stars	Jan. 1 - July 31	Jilin, Regina and Saskatoon	Gerald Sperling	(306) 789-0992
Symbols in the Snow	Present - July		Wally Start	(306) 244-7788
Old Friends and a New World	Mar Sept.	Regina and Saigon	Don List/ C.A. Gilhooly	(306) 359-3070
Asia Pacific Presentations	Mar. 18 - 19	Swift Current and Rural area - SW	Linda Kemp	(306) 778-4424
Children's Art from Twin Cities in Asia (Pacific Region)	Apr Oct.	Across the province of Saskatchewan	Donna Kriekle	(306) 586-1250
Wall Mural (Philippine Culture/Scenery)	May - June	Regina	Pepito Escanlar	(306) 352-2666
Cultures in Transition	May - Dec.	Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary, Regina, Saskatoon, Yukon, etc.	Stuart Black	(604) 738-8815
The culture and performance art of "Lion Dance"	May 1 - July 31	Saskatoon and vicinity	Wey Lee	(306) 933-8533
Celebration Cultural Diversity	16 May	Yorkton and Winnipeg	Roshan Hemani	(306) 783-6566
Cultural Visual Display and Demonstration of Arnis	June	Regina	Fracy Redaja	(306) 791-6929
Asia Pacific Heritage Radio Vignettes	June 1 - 30	Saskatoon	Ted Stensrud	(306) 664-6678
From Taiko to Gat Fei Gai: The Childhood Sites and Sounds of the Asia Pacific	June 3 - 7	Saskatoon	Cass Cozens Joan Flood	(306) 934-3378
Arts tent guest 'Hou-Tien Cheng	June 11 - 14	Regina	Christa Donaldson	(306) 352-7655

Kathak Dance Workshop and Old Roads - New World	June 13 - Oct. 4	Conservatory of Music, and Darke Hall, Regina	Rosa Mirijello- Haynes	(306) 522-8858
Regina Folk Festival	June 20 - 22	Victoria Park, Regina	Greg Bodnarchuk	(306) 757-7684
Celebrate Canada Year of Asia Pacific - A special concert	June 28	Regina	Sylvia Yam	(306) 789-2148
Hard into Soft	Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	Persephone Theatre/schools in Saskatoon	Carla-Marie Powers	(306) 652-6415
Sompradaya Dance Creations and Workshop	Aug. 29 - 30	Persephone Theatre, Saskatoon	Megha Lai	(306) 653-8002
Regina Dragon Boat Festival	Aug. 29 - 30	Regina	Olivia Shumski	(306) 780-9259
The Taiwan Connection: Fabric of a Society	Sept. 12 - Oct. 19	AKA satelite gallery at Midtown Mall and University of Saskatchewan	Anthony Kiendl	(306) 652-0044
Todays Japan: Design Sampling	Sept. 15 - Nov. 10	Saskatchewan Science Centre	John Snell	(306) 791-7930
Chen Pei Zhong - Art Exhibition, Watercolor workshop + visiting artist	Oct. 2 - Nov. 16	Moose Jaw	Heather Smith	(306) 692-4471
Dare to Dance 97	Oct. 11	Saskatoon	Jill Reid	(306) 931-8480
Chinese Dance Gala	Oct. 25	Moose Jaw Peacock Collegiate	Josephine Chow	(306) 691-0515
Asia Then and Now	Nov. (one-week event)	Regina Public Library Film Theatre	Brenda New	(306) 777-6104



AXWORTHY TO VISIT INDONESIA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy will visit Jakarta, Indonesia, on July 30, immediately following his participation in Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) meetings in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

In Jakarta, Mr. Axworthy will call on President Soeharto, Foreign Affairs Minister Ali Alatas and Co-ordinating Minister for Political and Security Affairs Soesilo Soedarman. He will also hold meetings with the Canadian business community, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), academics, the Papal Nuncio, and members of Indonesia's National Human Rights Commission.

"My visit to Indonesia provides an ideal opportunity to discuss issues of mutual concern, including APEC [the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum], human rights, UN reform, regional security and anti-personnel mines, said Mr. Axworthy. "I will also use this opportunity to review recent developments in the country and assess how Canada's activities in the region are responding to the current situation."

Canadians co-operate with local organizations primarily through Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) - funded programs that promote human rights and good governance in areas such as women's rights, human rights training and civil society participation in development. The Canadian Human Rights Commission, through a CIDA-funded program of co-operation, is the only foreign human rights commission to have established significant links with the Indonesian National Human Rights Commission.

"Canada is working closely with the Indonesian government and NGOs to develop institutions and strategies that enhance sustainable development and good governance, " said Mr. Axworthy. "We are particularly pleased with the growing co-operation between our national Human Rights Commissions."



For further information, media representatives may contact:

Catherine Lappe Director of Communications Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (613) 995-1851

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874





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NEWS RELEASE

CAI EA -CSS

July 29, 1997



No. 125

ALBERTA CELEBRATES CANADA'S YEAR OF ASIA PACIFIC

Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada Anne McLellan, today announced, on behalf of Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, that a series of events in Alberta have received funding as part of the cultural component of Canada's Year of Asia Pacific (CYAP). The projects were announced to coincide with the launch of Edmonton Asia Pacific Month, held today at Edmonton City Hall.

Thirty-three local CYAP cultural projects will be supported in Alberta, ranging from cultural events and visual arts exhibits to performances and workshops.

"In honour of Canada's Year of Asia Pacific, I am pleased to announce these exciting projects, which celebrate the growing ties between Albertans and the people of Asia Pacific," said Minister McLellan. "I encourage everyone to make the most of this unprecedented opportunity to explore new business opportunities and learn more about this dynamic region. As the federal government prepares for the upcoming APEC [Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum] Energy Ministerial Meeting in Edmonton, it is clear that Asia Pacific is making an indelible mark on Alberta in 1997."

"Canada's Year of Asia Pacific will help strengthen and expand our relationship with the Asia Pacific region by promoting increased business opportunities, youth involvement and cultural exchanges," said Mr. Axworthy. "The CYAP cultural program celebrates Canada's cultural ties to the region and recognizes the contribution of Canada's cultural sector to strengthening our relations in Asia Pacific."

The Government of Canada has designated 1997 as Canada's Year of Asia Pacific in honour of its role as this year's Chair of the APEC forum. Activities planned across the country throughout the year will include business and trade seminars at the local and national levels, cultural and youth events, and a series of APEC ministerial meetings. A





meeting of APEC energy ministers, hosted by Ralph Goodale, Minister of Natural Resources Canada, will take place on August 26 and 27 in Edmonton. CYAP will culminate in the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in November, when Prime Minister Jean Chrétien will host economic leaders from Asia Pacific in Vancouver.

Funding of \$147 000 for these projects has been provided for in the February 1997 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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A list of cultural projects receiving CYAP funding is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Marie Iwanow CYAP Regional Media Co-ordinator (403) 424-7000

This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

Cultural Projects for Canada's Year of Asia Pacific - 1997 Alberta

Title of Project	Date of Project	Venue	Phone
"The Red Threads" project, Springboard Dance	Feb. 3 - Mar. 29	Calgary	(403) 245-3242
Southern Alberta Ethnic Association in collaboration with the Sir Alexander Galt Museum Festival	Mar July 1	Lethbridge	(403) 320-1577
Khac Chi Ensemble Tour at the Devonian Gardens	Apr. 25	Edmonton	(517) 277-1563
IDERA (International Development Resource Association) Film Festival showing contemporary cinema of Southeast Asia.	May - Dec.	Calgary, Edmonton	(601) 738-8815
Festival of Colours at MacDonald Island Complex	May 2 - 4	Fort McMurray	(403) 791-5186
Asian Canadian Writers' Workshop	May	Edmonton	(403) 482-2709
Asian Canadian Film and Video Festival at Metro Cinema's Colin Low Theatre	May 22 - 25	Edmonton	(403) 425-9212
Garden of Dreams concert presented by the Edmonton Ragamala Music Society	May 10	Edmonton	(403) 483-5115
The Aborignal Dance Project 1997 at the Banff Centre for the Arts	June 8 - July 15	Banff	(403) 762-6288
EM/Medis Gallery & Production Society Film Festival	June 26 - 28	Calgary	(403) 263-2833

"The Summit and Interactive Screen" multimedia conference at the Banff Centre for the Arts	June 27 - 29	Banff	(403) 762-6696
Canada/China Applied Arts Exhibit at The Works Festival	June 27 - July 9	Edmonton	(403) 426-2122
Papermaking Residency at the Banff Centre for the Arts	June 30 - Aug. 8	Banff	(403) 762-6100
Music Bridge workshop at Mount Royal College Conservatory	July 6 - Aug. 1	Calgary	(403) 240-6595
Philippine Barangay Children's Dance Troupe: "The New Ethnic Wave"	July 19	Edmonton	(403) 944-5552
Production of Edmonton Chinese Television documentary about hockey player Larry Kwong	Aug.	Calgary, Edmonton	(403) 457-7485
"Deep Web" Internet site developed at the Banff Centre for the Arts	Aug Dec.	Banff	(403) 762-6696
Edmonton Chinese Art Society art exhibition and concerts, venues TBD	Aug Sept.	Edmonton	(403) 489-0503
Edmonton Dragon Boat Festival on North Saskatchewan River	Aug. 16 - 17	Edmonton	(403) 493-8158
Hope Lee. "One thousand curves, ten thousand colours" multimedia concert, venue TBD	Sept Oct.	Calgary	(403) 686-0407
Performing artists from Indonesia, University of Lethbridge	Sept Oct.	Lethbridge Medicine Hat	(403) 381-0218

"File O: A Theatre Poem" and "Fragments of a Farewell Letter Read by Geologists" at Northern Light Theatre	Sept Nov.	Edmonton	(403) 471-1586
"Sightlines" An International Symposium and Exhibition on Printmaking and Image Culture at the University of Alberta	Oct. 1 - 5	Edmonton	(403) 492-7855
Prairie Asians: A Reading Tour, venues TBD	Oct.	Lethbridge, Edmonton, Grand Prairie	(403) 691-5491
"Imperial Legacy: Paintings of Yuhuan" exhibition, venues TBD	Oct. 20 - Dec. 12	Calgary, Edmonton	(403) 492-7867
Construction of an Asian garden and Asian bridge, Educational Program for Youth at the Muttart Conservatory	Oct. 30 - Nov. 30	Edmonton	(403) 496-8739
"Anime" public workshop and seminar at the Banff Centre for the Arts	Nov. 7 - 15	Banff	(403) 762-6696
Kita No Taiko concert, venue TBD	Nov. 15	Edmonton	(403) 431-0300
Exhibition of the Chinese Canadian Pioneer Museum Foundation, venues TBD	Nov Dec.	Edmonton and area	(403) 444-7764
Production of "Mom, Dad, I'm Living with a White Girl" presented by Theatre Network (1975) Society at the Roxy Theatre	Dec. 12 - 13	Edmonton	(403) 453-2440

"Passages (Five Senses with Five Seasons)" dance presented by Usha Kala Niketan Studio, venue TBD	Dec. 12 - 13	Edmonton	(403) 988-6534
Mieko Ouchi live performance and production of film, venues TBD	Jan Aug.	Calgary, Edmonton	(403) 432-9169
Exhibition of Asian- Canadian artists at Stride Gallery	ТВА	Calgary	(403) 262-8507



July 30, 1997

CANADA WELCOMES EXTENSION OF **UN PEACEKEEPING MISSION IN HAITI**

The Government of Canada today welcomed the decision of the United Nations Security Council to create a new UN Transition Mission in Haiti (UNTMIH). This new mission will be made up of civilian police officers and a military protection force for a four-month mandate until November 30, 1997. This decision is in response to a request by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to the international community to maintain a presence in Haiti for a few more months to consolidate the democratic process and reinforce national institutions. UNTMIH will pick up from the current peacekeeping mission whose mandate expires July 31.

"There has been tangible progress in Haiti over the last few years, and Canada is particularly proud to have played such a prominent role in support of this evolution, through our bilateral relations and within the different UN missions, " said Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy. "Canada believes that maintaining a UN presence in Haiti will help consolidate the peace process there and build a solid foundation for economic development through the pursuit of professionalization of the police force and improvement of the legal system."

"As with past United Nations missions in Haiti, Canada will provide a contingent of Canadian Forces personnel as part of the security element for the operation, " said Minister of National Defence Art Eggleton. "The task of this military component will be to ensure the safety and freedom of movement of those United Nations personnel who will be supporting the Haitian National Police."

Minister for International Co-operation and Minister Responsible for la Francophonie Diane Marleau added: "By supporting the civilian police mission and by providing technical assistance to the Haitian National Police, the Canadian International Development Agency and its international partners are helping the Government of Haiti promote the rule of law and ensure the country's security and stability. Our support is important because without security and without justice, there can be no long-term social and economic development for the Haitian people."

"The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), in co-operation with other Canadian police corps, will continue to play an essential role in the



professionalization of the Haitian National Police," said Solicitor General Andy Scott. "The RCMP's technical contribution to training and the implementation of a community police concept will help the Haitian National Police to build a stable and professional police force."

The new mission will include a civilian police force numbering up to 250, including 60 Canadians, and a military protection force of 1 000, to which Canada is contributing 650 soldiers.

The UN established a presence in Haiti in March 1995, with Canada in command since March 1996. The UN Transition Mission in Haiti is clearly the last of the peacekeeping missions there since Haitian President René Préval has stated that he would make no further requests for UN peacekeeping troops.

The mission's military protection force will be financed by the UN, who will contribute to the force's command headquarters, numbering 50. The remainder of the force will be paid by voluntary funding from other countries, including Canada and the United States. The mission's mandate is to offer protection to the civilian police officers and contribute to the development of the Haitian National Police.

- 30 -

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Media Relations Office Canadian International Development Agency (819) 995-6534 Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

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Royal Canadian Mounted Police Media Relations (613) 993-1085

This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca



July 30, 1997

No. 127

CANADA AND INDONESIA EXPAND CO-OPERATION

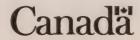
Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy visited Jakarta, Indonesia, today, where he paid a courtesy call on President Soeharto and met with Co-ordinating Minister for Security and Political Affairs Soesilo Soedarman and Foreign Minister Ali Alatas. The Minister also met with representatives of non-governmental organizations, the Indonesian National Human Rights Commission and Canadian companies.

Discussions with the Government of Indonesia covered preparations for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting, being held in Vancouver in November. They also focussed on areas of shared expertise in promoting regional security, confidence-building measures and peacekeeping, as well as the two countries' mutual commitment to ensuring peace and stability in the South China Sea. Mr. Axworthy re-confirmed his support for Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) efforts and for the mission led by Minister Alatas to promote a peaceful resolution to the situation in Cambodia.

Minister Axworthy explored ways to increase co-operation in human resource development and technical training. An agreement was reached to establish a ministerial-level Bilateral Consultative Forum, with a mandate to promote co-operation in addressing international and bilateral issues, including human rights.

The Minister raised the issue of East Timor with his interlocutors and reiterated Canada's strong support for the tripartite (United Nations, Indonesia and Portugal) talks. He also announced, in conjunction with Minister for International Co-operation and Minister Responsible for la Francophonie Diane Marleau, that Canada would be contributing \$30 000 through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to the All-Inclusive Intra-East Timorese Dialogue. This UN-led forum brings together East Timorese groups of different political views to discuss possible solutions to the current situation there. CIDA also contributed \$30 000 to the forum in 1996.







Mr. Axworthy sought advice from the Indonesian National Human Rights Commission, Canadians resident in Indonesia and non-governmental representatives on ways to broaden co-operation in the areas of regional and international security, human rights and socio-economic development. Particular emphasis was placed on how Canada might assist civil society in developing its capacity to effect progress.

The Minister also encouraged Indonesia to come to Ottawa from December 2 to 4 to sign a legally binding international treaty to ban anti-personnel mines.

Funding for the East Timor initiative was provided for in the February 1997 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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News Release

August 1, 1997

No. 128

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MARCHI TO MEET U.S. COMMERCE SECRETARY DALEY DURING TRADE MISSION TO CANADA

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi will meet United States Commerce Secretary William Daley on August 5 as the Secretary leads a trade delegation of small and medium-sized businesses to Canada.

Mr. Daley's visit will focus on the strong opportunities for small and medium-sized U.S. firms to forge strategic alliances and partnerships with Canadian companies, particularly in the high-technology sector.

"I am very pleased that Secretary Daley and the trade delegation continue to view the Canadian market as a priority for broadening trade links," said Mr. Marchi. "We agree that small and mediumsized firms are important engines of economic growth in North America. Anything we can do to encourage new joint ventures and investment will generate jobs for citizens on both sides of the border."

Minister Marchi and Secretary Daley will also discuss a variety of trade and investment issues, such as U.S. fast-track authority for trade negotiations, the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation Leaders' meeting in November and various bilateral trade concerns.

Secretary Daley and the delegation of 16 U.S. companies will visit Montreal on August 4 and 5, Ottawa on August 5 and Toronto on August 6. Secretary Daley will also visit Vancouver on August 7.

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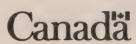
For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca under the News Releases heading.



Government of Canada du Canada





August 6, 1997

CANADA WELCOMES RUSSIAN OVERFLIGHT UNDER OPEN SKIES CONFIDENCE AND SECURITY-BUILDING REGIME

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Minister of National Defence Art Eggleton announced today that a team of Russian military experts are visiting Canada August 4-9, 1997, to conduct a trial overflight under the terms of the Open Skies Treaty.

"This overflight is a new and encouraging dimension of the ongoing co-operation between Canada and Russia in building Euro-Atlantic security. We are very pleased to be participating in this first Russian overflight of North America, " said Mr. Axworthy. "We hope this signals that Russia will soon complete its ratification of this important confidence-building mechanism, " added the Minister.

"The Canadian Forces have built a strong reputation in the field of arms control and confidence-building measures. This exercise provides them with another opportunity to participate in activities designed to demonstrate openness and build trust. They will be able to interact with their Russian counterparts and put into practice the Treaty's military overflight receiving procedures, " said Mr. Eggleton.

The Open Skies Treaty permits the 27 European, Central Asian and North American State Parties to conduct short-notice overflights of one another's territory to collect information on military forces and their deployment. Canada is among several State Parties to the Treaty that have conducted trial observation flights since 1990 in order to demonstrate the capacity of the Open Skies regime to enhance transparency among the participating states. The Treaty will come into force once Russia and Ukraine complete the process of ratification.

Canada was a key proponent, as well as the host, of the original Open Skies negotiations and is, along with Hungary, a Codepositary of the Treaty. The conclusion of the Open Skies Treaty was an important advance in the development of confidence- and security-building measures in the immediate post-Cold War period when it was negotiated between North Atlantic Treaty Organization and then-Warsaw Pact members in 1991 in Ottawa. Today, the Open



Skies regime offers a significant opportunity to build valuable military-to-military contacts and co-operation among the participating states.

The Russian flight over Canada is immediately preceded by one Russia will conduct over the United States. Russia is required to provide Canadian military officials with a flight plan not less than 24 hours before conducting the flight. Under the terms of the Treaty, Russia is entitled to photograph anything it considers of military interest using only equipment that cannot register objects of less than 30 cm across.

On Friday, August 8, 1997, between 10 a.m. and noon, media representatives interested in visiting the Russian aircraft are invited to the Ottawa International Airport. Some crew members along with Canadian representatives will be present. This media presentation is organized by the media liaison office of the Department of National Defence.

A media backgrounder on the Open Skies Treaty is available upon request by contacting the Media Liaison Officer, Department of National Defence.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Media Liaison Officer Department of National Defence (613) 996-2353

This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

News Release

August 7, 1997

No. 130

CANADA ANNOUNCES FURTHER ACTIONS ON BURMA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced further actions on Burma, including selective economic measures and humanitarian assistance. These measures underscore Canada's concern over the deteriorating human rights situation in Burma and are intended to encourage the military regime to enter into meaningful political dialogue with the leaders of the democracy movement.

The Canadian government is withdrawing Burma's General Preferential Tariff eligibility and placing Burma on the Area Control List, which requires all exports from Canada to Burma to have an export permit. With these actions, Canada joins the United States and European Union in imposing selective economic measures against Burma.

"Burma's military leaders have made no effort to improve the current situation and have repeatedly failed to respond to the international community's attempts to open channels of communication," said Mr. Axworthy. "The actions we have taken today are intended to convey the seriousness of our concerns over the suppression of political freedoms and our frustration with Burma's failure to curb the production and trafficking of illegal drugs."

Mr. Axworthy will be reviewing Canada's contribution to the UN International Drug Control Program to determine how best to assist anti-drug projects in the region.

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Minister for International Co-operation Diane Marleau also announced that the Canadian International Development Agency will be providing \$350 000 in additional humanitarian assistance for Burmese refugees in Thailand. These funds will be used for emergency food aid to refugee camps and to support refugee assistance projects run by local and international non-governmental organizations. Canada suspended bilateral aid to Burma following the 1988 massacre of pro-democracy demonstrators in Rangoon.



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"Since last year's ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations] meetings when Canada sought to develop consensus on an approach to Burma, we have been engaged in ongoing consultations with a number of countries and international organizations," said Mr. Axworthy. "We call on the international community, and particularly Burma's ASEAN neighbours, to use their influence to encourage national reconciliation and a return to democracy in Burma. We also urge the Canadian business community to refrain from entering into further investment agreements or commercial ventures in Burma until improvements are evident."

Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 1997 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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A backgrounder on Burma is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

Backgrounder

BURMA

The situation in Burma is deteriorating as human rights violations continue. The renewed humanitarian crisis on the Thai-Burma border caused by fleeing Burmese refugees, coupled with repressive measures being taken by Burma's ruling military regime against the pro-democracy movement, continue to threaten regional security. Illicit drug production and trafficking is a growing problem in the region, with Burma remaining the largest source for illegal heroin entering North America.

Canada deplores the human rights violations in Burma and has sought to encourage national reconciliation and the restoration of democracy. Canada's policy is designed to support democratic reform, alleviate the suffering of refugees and curb the production and trafficking of drugs. To this end, Canada supports United Nations initiatives, enforces selective economic measures against Burma, maintains dialogue with all parties involved and provides humanitarian assistance to victims fleeing the conflict.

Why Burma?

Canada's promotion of international human rights is founded on our long-standing principle of effective influence, as outlined by Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy at the Department's annual human rights consultations with non-governmental organizations on February 5, 1997. Dialogue and engagement generally offer the best vehicle to effect change. We have established bilateral dialogue with countries such as China, Cuba and Indonesia.

Dialogue is, however, impossible without a willing partner. Burma's ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) has consistently rebuffed efforts by Canada and other countries to engage in dialogue.

This intransigence was most recently reconfirmed on July 29 in Kuala Lumpur. Foreign Affairs Minister Axworthy presented Burmese Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaw with a list of eight actions that Canada suggested the military regime take to improve the human rights situation in Burma. Foreign Minister Gyaw failed to respond to any of Canada's proposals. These proposals included:

- the commencement of a serious dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi about the political and constitutional evolution of Burma;
- the release of political prisoners as a prerequisite for a free and open political dialogue;
- a clear timetable for the constitutional process;
- the return to Burma of the International Committee of the Red Cross;

- agreement to a visit by the Special Rapporteur of the UN Commission on Human Rights with the full co-operation he needs to facilitate his work;
- significant progress in the dialogue with the UN Secretary-General (as conducted through his Special Representative);
- concrete action by the SLORC to reduce the production and trafficking of illicit drugs and a commitment to participate actively in international and regional drug control efforts;
- development of a package of Canada-Burma bilateral human rights activities including the establishment of a joint committee on human rights.

Canadian Efforts at Change: Multilateral Measures

Canada has consistently worked to effect change in Burma. The meeting between Foreign Affairs Minister Axworthy and Foreign Minister Gyaw is only the most recent in a series of Canadian Minister Gyaw is only the most recent in a series of Canadian actions to encourage the SLORC to respect the human rights of Burmese citizens. In multilateral forums, Canada has supported tough resolutions adopted by consensus at both the UN Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly deploring the human rights violations in Burma. As well, Canada has supported the suspension of multilateral aid to Burma through international financial institutions.

Canada is engaging in ongoing consultations with a number of countries and international organizations on ways to establish channels of communication between the SLORC and the international community. In June 1997, at the Denver Summit, Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy led other foreign ministers in calling for the SLORC to enter into meaningful dialogue with leaders of the democracy movement and ethnic minorities aimed at national reconciliation and the restoration of democracy. Foreign Affairs Minister Axworthy has discussed the Burma issue with his counterparts from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on a regular basis, most recently during the just-completed ASEAN Regional Forum in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Prime Minister raised concerns about Burma during his Team Canada visit to Southeast Asia in January 1997.

Canada has adopted a regional approach to the problem of illicit drug production in the Golden Triangle through the UN International Drug Control Program, which provides countries in the region, including Burma, with assistance in developing drug control plans.

Bilateral Measures

Canada has previously undertaken several bilateral measures including:

the suspension of bilateral aid in 1988;

the termination of military sales;

the suspension of diplomatic and commercial presence in

Burma; and

• the suspension of support for Canadian firms doing business in Burma, including export programs and commercial promotion.

Canada maintains a dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi through Canada's Ambassador to Burma, who is resident in Thailand.

Canadian Assistance to Burma and Burmese Refugees

Canada's bilateral aid program in Burma, operated through the Canadian International Development Agency, was suspended in 1988 after the massacre of thousands of pro-democracy demonstrators in Rangoon. Although Canada does not support multilateral assistance to Burma through international financial institutions, it has provided relief through multilateral agencies and nongovernmental organizations to assist Burmese refugees who fled to Thailand or Bangladesh. From 1992 to the present, Canada has provided \$660 000 (which includes the most recent commitment of \$350 000) to assist Burmese refugees in Thailand. From 1994 to the present, Canada has, in addition, provided \$8.4 million in relief to Burmese refugees in Bangladesh. This sum was administered through the UN High Commission for Refugees, the World Food Program and Médecins sans frontières.



August 8, 1997

No. 131

LOIS WILSON TO CHAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today appointed the Very Reverend Dr. Lois Wilson to the Chair of the Board of Directors of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development (ICHRDD). Dr. Wilson has served since December 23, 1996, as a Board member. She succeeds Ms. Maureen O'Neil as Chairperson.

Dr. Wilson is Chancellor of Lakehead University in Thunder Bay and a member of numerous boards and committees. Dr. Wilson has dedicated much of her career to working with various organizations promoting human rights, and she has written many books. She was the first female moderator of the United Church of Canada and also the first Canadian president of the World Council of Churches. In 1984 she was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada and awarded the Pearson Peace Medal by the United Nations Association of Canada.

The ICHRDD is an independent body established by an Act of Parliament in 1988. It provides persons and organizations in other countries with training, advice and research services to promote the observance of human rights and the full participation of all citizens in the democratic process. The Centre's Board of Directors is made up of 13 members, including 3 from countries other than Canada. The Centre's President, Warren Allmand, QC, PC, succeeded the Honourable Edward Broadbent in February 1997.

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For further information, media representatives may contact: Catherine Lappe Director of Communications Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (613) 995-1851



Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

August 15, 1997

No. 132

FIRST MEETING OF THE CANADA-JAPAN FORUM

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that the first meeting of the Canada-Japan Forum will be held August 17-19, in Victoria, British Columbia. Established by Prime Ministers Jean Chrétien and Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Forum is a nongovernmental dialogue mechanism designated to expand ties between Canada and Japan. This first meeting is being held in Victoria in honour of the fact that 1997 is Canada's Year of Asia Pacific.

"I am confident that this first meeting of the Forum will serve to further strengthen our already extensive ties with Japan, in particular in the area of people-to-people ties, " said Mr. Axworthy.

In addition to examining ways to strengthen and promote bilateral relations and people-to-people ties, the Japanese and Canadian co-chairs and members will discuss organizational issues relating to the Forum itself.

Each country is represented by one co-chair and four members. Canada's co-chair is the Honourable Edward C. Lumley, former Minister for International Trade and current Vice-Chairman of Nesbitt Burns. The four Canadian members of the Forum are: Mr. Peter Bentley, Chairman of the Board and Director of Canfor Corporation and Canadian Forest Products Ltd.; Mrs. Tama Copithorne, Director of Japanese Culture and Communications for the David Lam Centre of International Communication at Simon Fraser University; Mr. Jean-Paul Gourdeau, Chairman of the Board of the École Polytechnique Montréal; and Mr. Douglas Knight, CEO and Publisher of The Financial Post.

Japan's co-chair is Mr. Hiroshi Kitamura, former Japanese Ambassador to Canada and to the United Kingdom, and current Corporate Advisor to Mitsubishi Corporation. Japan's four members are: Mr. Mikio Kato, Executive Director, International House of Japan; Ms. Masako Iino, Professor, Tsuda College; Mr. Shigeji Ueshima, President and CEO, Mitsui & Co. Ltd.; Mr. Hatsuhisa Takashima, Executive Controller-General, Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK).

The Forum's mandate includes: identifying opportunities to enhance Canada-Japan ties; encouraging co-operation between non-governmental sectors, groups and associations in Canada and Japan; and increasing public awareness of important issues in Canada-Japan relations. Forum meetings will be held annually, with the location alternating between Canada and Japan.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

August 25, 1997

No. 133

CANADA WELCOMES WTO REPORT ON EU BEEF IMPORT BAN

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi and Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lyle Vanclief today welcomed the World Trade Organization's (WTO) panel report concerning the European Union's (EU) ban on imports of Canadian beef.

"The WTO panel report supports Canada's long-standing position that the import ban imposed by the EU was not consistent with its obligations under the WTO. This important finding also underlines that Canada's trade interests are best defended through a rules-based system," said Mr. Marchi.

"This ruling is an important step toward re-opening access to European markets for Canada's high-quality beef and beef byproducts," said Mr. Vanclief. "Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada will continue working in close co-operation with Canada's beef producers and exporters to ensure they have fair access to the European market, where their products are sure to do well because of Canada's reputation for excellent quality food."

In 1989, the EU imposed a ban on imports of Canadian beef produced with growth-promoting hormones. The EU argued that the ban was a health protection measure, however, internationally accepted studies have consistently found that the use of the growth hormones in question presents no danger to beef consumers.

Canada requested a WTO dispute-settlement panel in 1996 after direct consultations with the European Union failed to resolve the dispute. The EU still has the right to appeal the finding of the report.

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The WTO panel report can be found on the Internet at: http://www.wto.org/

For further information, media representatives may contact;

Leslie Swartman, Director of Communications Office of the Minister for International Trade (613) 992-7332



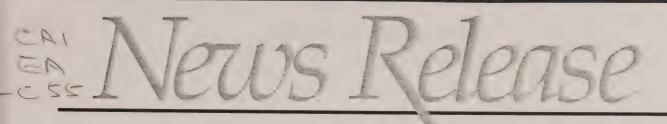
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Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

Vern Greenshields Press Secretary Office of the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food (613) 759-1020

This document is also on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca



August 28, 1997

No. 134

MARCHI ANNOUNCES NEW EDC PRESIDENT

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today announced the appointment of Mr. Ian Gillespie as President of the Export Development Corporation (EDC).

At EDC for almost two decades, Mr. Gillespie has acquired considerable expertise in helping Canadian businesses grow and prosper through exports and international investment. currently serves as the Crown corporation's Senior Vice President, Risk Management and Corporate Performance.

As Canada's official export credit agency, EDC is a unique financial institution that strengthens the global competitiveness of Canadian exporters and investors in more than 200 countries by offering some of the most sophisticated trade finance skills available in Canada today. In 1997, EDC's business volume is expected to surpass \$27 billion - exceeding last year's record level of \$22 billion.

The appointment is effective immediately.

- 30 -

Biographical notes are attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Leslie Swartman Director of Communications Office of the Minister for International Trade (613) 992-7332

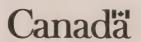
Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca



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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Ian Gillespie earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics at Queen's University in 1974 and a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Western Ontario in 1978. He was later awarded a CFA Charter from the Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts in 1986. He began his career at Wood Gundy Limited in Toronto in the Corporate Finance Department. Since 1978, Mr. Gillespie has held numerous positions of increasing responsibility at the Export Development Corporation including Area Manager, Export Financing; Assistant Vice President, Corporate Affairs Group; Controller, Financial Planning; General Manager, Export Financing Group; Assistant Treasurer; Vice President, Insurance; Senior Vice President, Short Term Insurance; and presently as Senior Vice President, Risk Management and Corporate Performance. As a member of the Executive Committee, he is also Chairman of the Risk Management Committee and the Chairman of the Information Systems Steering Committee. Mr. Gillespie was born in Toronto in 1952, and is married with two children.



August 28, 1997

No. 135

CHAN TO LEAD TRADE MISSION TO SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA

The Honourable Raymond Chan, Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific), will lead a trade mission to Singapore and the Malaysian state and federal capitals of Kuching and Kuala Lumpur from August 31 to September 6, 1997. Mr. Chan will be accompanied by a business delegation representing more than 20 Canadian companies.

"This visit will seek out opportunities and promote Canadian business involvement in Singapore and Malaysia, " said Mr. Chan. "It will help us develop relations with key regional business and political leaders, laying the foundation for greater trade in Southeast Asia."

In Singapore, Mr. Chan is scheduled to meet with the Minister for Trade and Industry, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Secretary of State for Communications, as well as the Canadian business community and select Singapore business people.

In Malaysia, Mr. Chan is scheduled to meet with the Chief Minister of the State of Sarawak, as well as the Ministers of Transport, of International Trade and Industry, and of Science, Technology and Environment. He will also meet with senior officials, business communities and Canadian alumni in Kuching. While in Kuching, Mr. Chan will officially open an honorary Canadian Consulate that will enhance business linkages with the rapidly growing state of Sarawak. He will also open a Canada Education Information Station.

"There are over 10 000 Singaporeans and 70 000 Malaysians who are graduates of Canadian universities, " said Mr. Chan. "We are building on these strong people-to-people ties during 1997, Canada's Year of Asia Pacific, and forging even stronger business and cultural links between our countries. We also look forward to welcoming many delegations from Southeast Asia when Canada hosts APEC SME [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise] Week in Ottawa, September 17-18."

In addition to promoting Canadian business, Mr. Chan will discuss political, trade and economic matters, as well as good governance and the rule of law during his visits. He will also encourage

leaders to come to Ottawa from December 2 to 4 to sign a legally binding international treaty banning anti-personnel mines.

Key emerging sectors within the Singapore and Malaysian markets include telecommunications, multimedia, environment, power, healthcare, advanced technology, education, agri-food, aerospace, petroleum and construction. In 1996 two-way trade with Singapore was valued at approximately \$1.76 billion, while two-way trade with Malaysia reached about \$2.1 billion.

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A list of the business delegation accompanying Mr. Chan is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Hilary Humphrey Office of the Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) (613) 995-1852

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

Visit to Singapore and Malaysia of the Honourable Raymond Chan Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) August 31 – September 6, 1997

Business Delegation

Newbridge Networks Corporation, Kanata, Ontario Bank of Montreal, Toronto, Ontario Sager Industries, Mississauga, Ontario Agrium, Edmonton, Alberta Technopar Equipment and Service LTD., Tecumseh, Ontario Wildfire Fire Equipment Inc., Lachine, Quebec MacDonald Dettwiler, Richmond, British Columbia Reid Crowther & Partners Ltd., Calgary, Alberta Harris Farinon Canada, Dollard des Ormeaux, Quebec University of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Winnport Logistics Ltd., Winnipeg, Manitoba CWH Enterprises Inc., Burnaby, British Columbia Interlink Group, Vancouver, British Columbia Bombardier Inc., Kingston, Ontario Tushar & Jahan Canada Inc., Ottawa, Ontario London Life International, London, Ontario Agra Monenco Inc., Oakville, Ontario SNC-Lavalin Inc., Montreal, Quebec Nova Gas International Ltd., Calgary, Alberta Bank of Nova Scotia, Toronto, Ontario University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia Sheridan College, Oakville, Ontario



August 29, 1997

No. 136

CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES REACH AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON SUGAR

Canada and the United States have reached an agreement in principle that guarantees Canadian access to U.S. markets for sugar and sugarcontaining products, International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi and Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lyle Vanclief announced today.

The United States has agreed to provide Canada with guaranteed access for a minimum of 10 300 tonnes of refined sugar and 59 250 tonnes for sugar-containing products. Canada can also compete for the remaining portion of the global Tariff Rate Quota (approximately 7500 tonnes of refined sugar).

In return, Canada will not challenge the continuation of the U.S. Re-Export Program for Sugar-Containing Products while the agreement is in effect.

"This agreement ensures a stable, predictable trade environment in an important export sector that employs more than 6000 Canadians," said Mr. Marchi. "It also removes a stumbling block in our overall trade relations."

"The United States severely restricted access to its sugar markets when it implemented its commitments to the World Trade Organization in 1995, " Mr. Vanclief said. "This agreement provides a guaranteed level of access - doubling the amount of refined sugar our producers were able to export last year to the U.S. - while protecting many thousands of Canadian jobs in the sugar-containing products industry."

Since April 21, 1997, Canada has been in a position to request a North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) dispute settlement panel to challenge the U.S. Re-Export Program for Sugar-Containing Products. Canada has always maintained that it would prefer to negotiate a mutually beneficial agreement. In mid-August, the United States Trade Representative's office made an offer that formed the basis for the agreement reached today.



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The agreement was reached through close co-operation and consultation with the provinces and Canada's sugar industry, and has broad support across the country.

Either party may terminate the agreement on six months' notice. If the agreement is terminated, Canada would again be in a position to request a NAFTA dispute settlement panel ruling on the U.S. Re-Export Program.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Leslie Swartman Director of Communications Office of the Minister for International Trade (613) 992-7332

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

Vern Greenshields Press Secretary Office of the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food (613) 759-1020

This document is also on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca



News Release

August 31, 1997

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No. 137

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy issued the followed statement on hearing of the tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales:

"On behalf of the people of Canada, I join the Governor-General and the Prime Minister of Canada in expressing my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Diana, Princess of Wales, most especially her two sons.

"Diana occupied a warm place in our hearts for the radiance of her personality and for her many humanitarian works. She had great empathy for the afflicted, and played a leading role in bringing the issue of land mines into the public consciousness. She will be sorely missed."

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (613) 995-1851

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874







News Release

September 3, 1997

No. 138

CANADIAN BUSINESS, CULTURE ON DISPLAY AT CANADA NAS GERAIS IN BRAZIL

Canada's business savvy and rich, diverse cultural life will be the centre of attention for eleven days in September during the Canada nas Gerais business exhibition and arts festival in Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

The September 3-14 event is designed to showcase Canadian companies in the dynamic and growing State of Minas Gerais. More than 100 Canadian firms are expected to attend the festival.

"This trade show symbolizes Canada's long-term commitment to forge closer links with Brazil, Canada's largest trading partner in South America," said International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi. "I am confident that this event will demonstrate both the many business opportunities in Canada, and the creativity of Canadian artists."

Business events will include:

- seminars by Canadian firms on advanced manufacturing technologies, such as robotics, followed by meetings with interested clients;
- an environmental mission that will help Canadian firms find partners and investment opportunities in recycling, pollution control and other areas;
- an education fair involving more than 25 Canadian educational institutions; and
- a food and consumer products show, tourism seminars, and an auction of Canadian beef cattle.

The cultural component of the fair presents a varied program, including: dance from Les Grands Ballets Canadiens and Margie Gillis; jazz from the Oliver Jones trio and Renée Lee; the Celtic energy of Ashley MacIssac and the Kitchen Devils; as well as performances by trapeze artists and country and classical musicians.





Other events will include:

- Terry Fox runs in three Brazilian cities to raise funds for cancer research;
- an in-line skate "Canada Cup" tournament involving teams from Minas Gerais and other states;
- a food festival led by chef Stephane Paquet that will introduce Brazilians to such exotic fare as maple syrup, wild rice and buffalo steaks;
- Canadian author Evelyn Lau's launch of the Brazilian edition of her novel Runaway; and
- a film festival and animation workshop, an exhibit of Inuit art, and other cultural displays.

More than 90 per cent of the cost of *Canada nas Gerais* is funded by Canadian and Brazilian business partners who see the festival as an excellent opportunity to develop business contacts and boost their marketing in Brazil.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Leslie Swartman, Director of Communications Office of the Minister for International Trade (613) 992-7332

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

News Release

September 3, 1997

No. 139

YOUNG CANADIANS TO BUILD KNOWLEDGE NETWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today met with youth interns about to start their assignments to develop a new international knowledge network for sustainable development. The project is run by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and is one of the Youth International Internship projects funded jointly by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) as part of the Government's Youth Employment Strategy.

"We need to connect the power of creative minds with the power of new technologies to find sustainable development solutions for Canada and the world," said Mr. Axworthy. "Last December, I announced that we would create a Canadian International Information Strategy [CIIS], which would use modern communications technologies to make Canada a leading broker of ideas and knowledge. This project is exactly the sort of thing we want to do under the CIIS."

Under this project, 20 interns from across Canada will work with international trade, business and development organizations on using Internet technologies to share information and experience on sustainable development. The IISD is leading an international team to build up the largest Internet gateway focusing on sustainable development issues. The IISD co-sponsored the report, Connecting to the World, on using information technologies in the service of international development, including an emphasis on the importance of creating opportunities for youth. Known as the Strong Report, it was a point of departure for the creation of the CIIS, now underway.

Ten of the interns will gather examples of "best practices" from other countries by working with organizations such as the African Housing Fund, Development Alternatives and the Earth Council. These internships will be funded with \$150 000 from CIDA. The other 10 will examine the implications for the international private sector. They will also work with trade organizations on keeping an information flow that can help the private sector



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integrate sustainability into international business practices. These internships will be funded with \$150 000 from DFAIT.

During Mr. Axworthy's visit, seven of the interns were at the IISD in Winnipeg for training on Internet technology, one segment of their pre-placement orientation.

DFAIT will be tabling its Sustainable Development Strategy with Parliament before the end of this year, in accordance with the Auditor General Act. As well, DFAIT will be reporting progress on the CIIS.

Funding for this project was provided for in the February 1997 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.



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For further information on the IISD project, the interns and their assignments, please contact Ms. Heather Creech, Programme Director, Information and Communications, IISD, (204) 958-7700 or the IISD Web site at http://iisd.ca/interns

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Debora Brown Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (613) 995-1851

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

News Release

September 4, 1997

No. 140

AXWORTHY TO ADDRESS LANDMINES CONFERENCE AND ATTEND COMMONWEALTH MEETING

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy will address delegates to the Non-Governmental Organizations' (NGO) Forum taking place as part of the International Landmines Conference in Oslo, Norway, on September 10. While in Oslo, Mr. Axworthy will also meet with Norwegian Foreign Minister Bjoern Tore Godal.

A delegation made up of Members of Parliament Dr. Keith Martin, (Esquimault-Juan de Fuca), Ms. Paddy Torsney (Burlington) and Mr. Jacques Saada (Brossard la Prairie) will also attend the NGO Forum, which takes place from September 7 to 10, to discuss issues such as mine clearance and victim assistance.

"I congratulate the Norwegian government for organizing this conference, which is a critical step in the international effort to ban landmines. The discussions are off to a productive start and I am looking forward to visiting the negotiating conference while I am in Oslo. I am confident that, together, the delegates will develop a sound treaty that will lead to a clear and unambiguous ban on these indiscriminate weapons worldwide," said Mr. Axworthy.

The Oslo Conference is taking place from September 1 to 19 to conclude negotiations on an international treaty banning the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of anti-personnel mines.

The Minister will then join Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) David Kilgour in London, England, to attend a meeting of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) on September 11 and 12.

Mr. Axworthy and Mr. Kilgour will join ministers from the seven other CMAG member countries to draft and finalize their report and recommendations for future Commonwealth action on The Gambia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. This is the last meeting before the CMAG presents its report to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland, in October.

Created in 1995, the CMAG's mandate is to recommend collective Commonwealth responses to flagrant or persistent violations of



Government Gouvernement of Canada du Canada



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the principles contained in the Commonwealth's Harare Declarations on human rights and democracy. The CMAG member countries are Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Jamaica, Malaysia, Ghana, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Debora Brown Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (613) 995-1851

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

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News Release

September 4, 1997

No. 141

MARCHI TO PRESS FOR FURTHER TRADE LIBERALIZATION AT ECONOMIC SUMMIT AND BUSINESS EXHIBITION IN BRAZIL

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi will visit Brazil from September 8 to 11 to strengthen trade and investment ties and to underscore Canada's strong support for hemispheric free trade.

"It is vitally important to maintain momentum towards a Free Trade Area of the Americas in preparation for next spring's Santiago Summit," said Mr. Marchi. "I am also eager to voice Canada's support for the impressive economic reforms taking place in Brazil — our largest trade partner in South America."

The Minister will attend a World Economic Forum summit of regional political leaders in Sao Paulo focussing on hemispheric integration, where he will meet with his counterparts from several countries in the region. He will also meet with leading political and business figures from the national and state levels.

Mr. Marchi will also attend a round-table discussion with members of the Canada-Brazil Chamber of Commerce in Belo Horizonte. The event is held in conjunction with *Canada nas Gerais*, a business and cultural festival focussing on Canadian business expertise.

Issues that the Minister plans to discuss with regional leaders include: progress on work toward a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA); the status of talks aimed at developing closer links with Mercosur, South America's largest trade grouping; and ways to increase Canada-Mercosur trade and investment through increased joint ventures and partnerships.

In addition to business activities, Mr. Marchi will unveil a plaque commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Canadian Consulate General in Sao Paulo.





For further information, media representatives may contact:

Leslie Swartman Director of Communications Office of the Minister for International Trade (613) 992-7332

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874





NEWS RELEASE

September 4, 1997

No. 142



ONTARIO CELEBRATES CANADA'S YEAR OF ASIA PACIFIC

The Honourable Sheila Copps, Minister of Canadian Heritage, on behalf of the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Foreign Affairs, announced today that a series of events in Ontario have received funding as part of the cultural component of Canada's Year of Asia Pacific (CYAP). Ms. Copps made the announcement at the Royal Ontario Museum, during the opening of Masterpieces of 20th Century Chinese Painting, an art exhibition featuring over 50 scroll paintings by artists from China and Hong Kong.

CYAP cultural projects in Ontario have received over \$430 000 in funding and range from special events and visual arts exhibits to performances and workshops. In addition to cultural projects already underway, over the coming months a series of cultural projects travelling across the country and from abroad will also visit the province.

"I am very pleased to be announcing these projects today, which are bringing Canada's Year of Asia Pacific to life in Ontario," said Ms. Copps. "This special year of activity celebrates Canada's ties to the region and is an opportunity to showcase Canada's cultural sector, as well as leading artists from Asia Pacific. The CYAP cultural program recognizes the contribution of Canada's cultural industries to strengthening both our commercial and cultural links to Asia Pacific."

Ms. Copps also noted that other prominent CYAP events will take place in Toronto this fall.

- Fishing Baskets of Asia Pacific, at the York Quay Gallery from September 5 to 26, will feature contemporary hand-crafted fishing baskets, nets and crafts from across the region. The exhibition explores fishing culture and materials and highlights the economic importance of fishing to the lives of people in Asia Pacific. The exhibition opened this summer in Lunenburg and will travel to Victoria in October.
- The Indian dancer Chandralehka, her dancers and musicians will conduct an extensive Canadian tour this fall with performances in Toronto at the Premier Dance Theatre from November 4 to 8. Ms. Chandralehka will create a collaborative work with Toronto Dance Theatre,



which will be premiered from December 2 to 13. A leading interpreter of classical Indian and modern dance, Ms. Chandralehka is recognized as one of the most important voices on the contemporary Indian cultural scene.

• CYAP funding will also support The Energy of Asian Design, a major exhibit of the best of contemporary Asian design, on October 17 at Harbourfront Centre.

"Canada's ties to Asia Pacific are strong. These ties are reflected in many ways, especially in the growing trade, investment and cultural links between our country and the economies of the region," said Mr. Axworthy. "Canada's Year of Asia Pacific will help strengthen and expand our relationship with this important region by promoting increased business opportunities, youth involvement and cultural exchanges."

The Government of Canada has designated 1997 as Canada's Year of Asia Pacific in honour of its role as this year's chair of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum. Activities planned across the country throughout the year include business and trade seminars at the local and national level, cultural and youth events, as well as a series of APEC ministerial meetings. CYAP will culminate in the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in November, when the Prime Minister will host economic leaders from Asia Pacific in Vancouver.

Ontario will take on an even greater role in these activities as host of the APEC Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise (SME) Ministerial Meeting and SME Business Forum and Exposition, to be held September 17-19 in Ottawa.

Funding for these projects has been provided for in the February 1997 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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A list of upcoming Ontario CYAP-funded events is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

Ruth Wieder CYAP Regional Media Coordinator (416) 484-7770

This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

Upcoming Ontario CYAP-Funded Projects

Sept. 1 – 5	Toronto	Toronto Tabla Workshop and CD ROM A musical workshop with Tabla Maestro Sri Swapan Chaudhuri. A CD ROM was produced on the joys and working of the classical rhythmic systems of north India.	Toronto Tabla Ensemble (416) 653-1182
Sept. 13	Guelph	Harvest Festival Celebrating the arts of the Vietnamese and Chinese Communities.	Guelph and District Multicultural Centre (519) 836-2222
Sept. 13	Mississauga	Thai Rambutan Harvest Festival	Thai Society of Ontario (905) 569-1709
Sept. 14	Scarborough	Chi Ping Dance Group Day-long festival with many attractions including photo exhibition.	Chi Ping Dance Group (416) 756-0885
Sept. 18	London	An exhibition of visual art and poetry Curated by Asian artists, this exhibition examines the symbolic and literal meanings of food in Asian culture.	McIntosh Gallery (519) 661-3181
Sept. 19	Toronto	Hai Feng Performs Pearls of Asia Pacific Musical performance by Prof. Chan Ka- ning's Hai Feng Chamber Ensemble	Toronto Canadian Chinese Artists' Centre (416) 733-8900
Sept. 19 – 20	Scarborough	Canada's Year of Asia Pacific Convention	Scarborough-York Region Chinese Business Assoc. (416) 502-9720
Sept. 19	Sudbury	Contemporary Films of Asia Pacific	Cinéfest
Sept. 20 – 22	Hamilton	Arts Festival Features visual art exhibition and film screening.	Hamilton and Region Arts Council (905) 529-9485
Sept. 27	Toronto	M-DO Presents Solo Evening of Dance Performance of Kathak dance by artistic director, Joanna Das.	M-DO (416) 967-0151
Sept Nov.	London	The Culture of Food Exhibition, lectures, screenings, readings and installation.	University of Western Ontario (519) 661-3440

Sept. 2 - Nov. 2	Oakville	Visual Art Exhibition Featuring a new installation by Korean artist Soo-Ja Kim.	Oakville Galleries (905) 844-4402
Sept. 20 – Oct. 5	Scarborough	Reflections An exhibition to celebrate Asian arts and crafts people in Scarborough.	The Scarborough Arts Council (416) 292-4462
Oct. 1 – 31	Ottawa	Prelude to Prosperity: Chinese Pioneers from 1881 to 1997, and beyond. A multi-media project with photography exhibit.	Chinese Canadian National Council (613) 733-4272
Oct. 1	Waterloo	The East Asian Autumn Festival	Renison College (519) 884-4404
Oct. 1	Toronto	Vietnamese Festival of Music and Dance	Society of Vietnamese- Canadian Professionals (416) 592-4695
Oct. 1	Toronto	A History of Chinese in Canada Web Page A multi-media photo gallery on the history of the Chinese-Canadian community.	Chinese Canadian National Council (416) 596-0833
Oct. 15	Toronto	Pancha Kalyanaka from the Life of Mahavira Indian dance performance	Janak Khendry Dance C (416) 968-1823

For a complete list of projects in Ontario, visit the CYAP cultural Web site at: www.cyap.com.

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September 5, 1997

No. 143

AXWORTHY AND MARCHI WELCOME CANADIAN BUSINESS FOCUS ON INTERNATIONAL PRACTICES

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today welcomed the announcement by a coalition of Canadian businesses of an international code of ethical business practices for firms operating abroad.

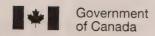
John McWilliams, Senior Vice President and General Counsel at Canadian Occidental Petroleum Limited, representing the group, met with Mr. Axworthy to outline the group's plans and to discuss its International Code of Ethics for Canadian Business.

"Canadian business can play an important role in this area, a role that reinforces international action by the Canadian government on ethical, social and environmental concerns," Mr. Axworthy said. "This code is a positive first step, and I look forward to further discussion by private-sector and non-governmental groups in this area."

Minister Marchi said he is pleased that the principles in this code are consistent with the Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises adopted by Canada and other members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). These Guidelines are intended to give multinational enterprises an internationally recognized point of reference on such corporate activities as environmental and employment practices.

"At the OECD, Canada is a firm proponent of taking a serious and thorough look into voluntary codes of conduct," added Mr. Marchi. "Guidelines negotiated in these multilateral forums make for a level playing field for all businesses."

The code announced today was developed by members of the Canadian private sector following two conferences in the past year that examined the issue of business practices abroad. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade organized the first in November 1996, and was a co-sponsor of the second, organized by the private sector in February 1997.



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An upcoming meeting sponsored by the Alliance of Manufacturers and Exporters Canada on September 23 will bring together members of the Canadian private sector and national business organizations to further broaden consensus on the code.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Debora Brown Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (613) 995-1851

Leslie Swartman Office of the Minister for International Trade (613) 992-7332

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

September 10, 1997

No. 144

MARCHI WITNESSES CANADA-BRAZIL AGREEMENTS IN BELO HORIZONTE, BRAZIL

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi witnessed the signing of agreements between Canadian and Brazilian firms and institutions totalling approximately \$150 million this week at events in Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

"These agreements demonstrate the enormous potential for increased trade and investment between our two nations," said Mr. Marchi. "They also show Canadian firms' confidence in economic reforms in Brazil that are creating new markets for goods, services and investment."

The Minister is visiting Brazil from September 8 to 11 to strengthen trade and investment ties and to discuss Canada's commitment to make further progress in hemispheric free trade discussions.

Mr. Marchi witnessed the signings of the following agreements on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week:

- A joint venture worth more than \$130 million between USIMINAS, a major Brazilian steel producer, A.G. Simpson Automotive Inc., an automotive parts manufacturer based in Scarborough, Ontario, and Brasinca Minas, a Brazilian automotive parts manufacturer. The deal will result in the construction of a metal-stamping plant in Brazil to supply General Motors of Brazil with automobile components.
- A \$21.2 million loan agreement between Canada's Export Development Corporation (EDC) and TELEMIG, the telephone company of the State of Minas Gerais. The loan will finance the sale of Nortel telecommunications equipment to TELEMIG to expand its cellular phone operations.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Industry Federation of Minas Gerais (FIEMG) and Toronto's Winted Energy Management Corporation. The MOU will create opportunities to develop energy conservation businesses in Minas Gerais.



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• A letter of intent between Proceda Systemhouse and the Catholic University of Minas Gerais to establish a scholarship for female students graduating in technological disciplines. The total value of the scholarship for 1998 is \$30 000. Proceda is a joint venture partnership between SHL Systemhouse of Ottawa and Brazilian information technology companies.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Director of Communications
Office of the Minister for International Trade
(613) 992-7332

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September 10, 1997

No. 145

CANADA ANNOUNCES TIMETABLE FOR DESTRUCTION OF LANDMINES

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Minister of National Defence Art Eggleton today announced a timetable for the elimination of Canada's remaining operational stocks of antipersonnel mines.

"Canada will take immediate measures to ensure that all its remaining anti-personnel mines are destroyed by the time the world comes to Ottawa in December to sign a treaty banning these weapons," said Mr. Axworthy.

Last October, the Canadian government announced that two thirds of Canada's stockpiles of anti-personnel mines would be set aside for immediate destruction, with the remaining third to be destroyed in the context of successful negotiations for a global ban. Destruction of the first two thirds was completed last November.

"During my recent trip to Bosnia, I saw first-hand the serious humanitarian problem caused by anti-personnel landmines," Mr. Eggleton said. "In destroying Canada's remaining operational stocks, the Canadian Forces are demonstrating the kind of leadership that is needed to solve this problem."

"I commend the Canadian Forces for their role in clearing mines in some of the world's most severely mine-affected countries," added Mr. Axworthy. "The treaty to be signed in Ottawa will contribute positively to the security of innocent civilians. We are proud to confirm that Canada will no longer use these weapons."

Minister Axworthy announced Canada's timetable today in Oslo, Norway, where he was addressing the Non-Governmental Organizations' Forum taking place as part of the conference currently under way to negotiate the text of the treaty. These negotiations are set to conclude by September 19, with the treaty signing scheduled to take place in Ottawa from December 2 to 4.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

Media Liaison Office Department of National Defence (613) 996-2353

This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

News Release

September 11, 1997

No. 146

KILGOUR TO VISIT UGANDA, RWANDA AND KENYA

Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) David Kilgour will visit Uganda, Rwanda and Kenya from September 13 to 19 to discuss regional peace initiatives in the African Great Lakes region and to express Canada's views on political reform in Kenya.

While in Uganda (September 13-15), Mr. Kilgour will meet with President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni to discuss activities undertaken by the President for the region's peace and security. They will also review economic and business development opportunities in Uganda as discussed during President Museveni's visit to Canada in June.

In Rwanda (September 15-18), Mr. Kilgour will meet with President Pasteur Bizimungu and Vice President Paul Kagame, as well as with representatives of a number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to discuss the situation in the African Great Lakes region.

"Having had a long personal interest in Rwanda, I look forward to a first visit to this country, to meeting the leaders of the new government face-to-face and to observing first-hand Canada's co-operation in action," Mr. Kilgour said.

In Kenya (September 18-19), Secretary of State Kilgour will call upon key ministers and senior officials to discuss political developments, including the forthcoming elections and the ongoing discussions on reform in the country. Mr. Kilgour will also meet with representatives from Kenyan civil organizations and NGOs, as well as church leaders who have been active in the reform process.

"I hope to discuss the recent moves by the Kenyan government to undertake political reforms," said Mr. Kilgour. "Canada continues to urge open discussions that take in all ranges of opinion."



For further information, media representatives may contact:

Sara Mohsin Communications Officer Office of the Honourable David Kilgour (613) 944-2162

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

Meaus Release

September 16, 1997

No. 147

MARCHI TO LEAD FIRST MISSION OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS TO WASHINGTON

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi will lead the first businesswomen's trade mission to Washington, D.C., from November 11 to 14, 1997. This four-day Team Canada mission is sponsored by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the Royal Bank of Canada. It will feature market information and mentoring sessions, networking events with key decision makers and other business development activities aimed at forging links with leading U.S. firms.

"Nearly one third of Canadian firms are owned or operated by women, but they are currently under-represented in the exporting community," said Mr. Marchi. "This mission will help women entrepreneurs to reach their export objectives and heighten awareness of their importance to the Canadian economy."

The mission is expected to attract more than 100 women entrepreneurs and will explore opportunities in the lucrative \$11.5 billion mid-Atlantic U.S. market. Canadian exports already make up a significant portion of this region's economy.

The more than 700 000 women-led businesses in Canada account for 1.7 million jobs and are creating new jobs at a rate four times the national average. Projections indicate that there will be 680 000 self-employed women by the year 2000.

The Minister made today's announcement during his remarks to the closing plenary of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Women Leaders' Network Meeting in Ottawa.

More information on the businesswomen's trade mission can be obtained from the Canadian Embassy in Washington by telephone at (202) 682-1740, extension 7305, or by fax at (202) 682-7619.



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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Leslie Swartman Office of the Minister for International Trade (613) 992-7332

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

Medos Release

September 17, 1997

No. 148

AXWORTHY SADDENED BY DEATHS IN UN HELICOPTER CRASH IN BOSNIA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today expressed his sadness at the news of the United Nations helicopter crash in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Twelve of those on board were killed and four were injured. Among the victims were five members of the Office of the High Representative, including Gerd Wagner of Germany, Deputy High Representative to Bosnia, and American Kris Kriskovich, Deputy Commissioner of the International Police Task Force.

"The victims of this tragedy were dedicated members of international organizations who worked selflessly, and at the cost of their own security, for peace and stability in the Balkans," Mr. Axworthy said. "Mr. Wagner, in particular, was known for his tireless efforts to create conditions for lasting peace in Bosnia."

The helicopter, which had 12 passengers and a four-member Ukrainian crew, crashed in dense fog on a hillside near Bugojno, approximately 70 km northwest of Sarajevo. The passengers were en route to Bugojno and Brcko to conduct peace implementation missions. No Canadians were on board.

"In memory of these and other victims, it is important that we pay tribute to all those in Bosnia who are working tirelessly, under difficult circumstances, to strengthen peace and reconciliation in the region," Mr. Axworthy said. "This includes the vast number of Canadians who helped successfully organize and carry out last weekend's elections." Bosnia's first municipal elections took place on September 13 and 14 without incident, with results expected by this weekend.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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September 18, 1997

No. 149

AXWORTHY WELCOMES ADOPTION OF TREATY BANNING LANDMINES

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today welcomed the formal adoption of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. The text of the treaty was negotiated over the past three weeks at a conference in Oslo, Norway.

"I believe we have succeeded in establishing what we set out to achieve - a new norm against this terrible weapon. We have shown that there are humanitarian limits to what is acceptable on the battlefield. The result is that we now have an excellent treaty that unambiguously bans anti-personnel mines with no exceptions and no loopholes. This unprecedented outcome fully justifies the risk we took last October when we challenged the world to sign a treaty in just 14 months," said Mr. Axworthy.

More than 100 countries worked together to reach this historic accord and most are expected to come to Ottawa from December 2 to 4 for the official signing conference.

"We have a lot of work ahead of us before December, and well beyond. We want to take the opportunity at the December Conference to launch, with our coalition partners, "Ottawa Process II," a global action plan to universalize the treaty, to remove those millions of mines already in the ground and to provide assistance to victims," added Mr. Axworthy.

While expressing regret at President Clinton's decision not to endorse the treaty at this time, Minister Axworthy was hopeful that the United States would soon be able to do so. He also noted that the new measures announced by the President on September 17, will eventually bring the United States into compliance with the treaty.

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For further information, media representatives may contact

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September 22, 1997

No. 150

AXWORTHY TO MEET WITH THAI FOREIGN MINISTER

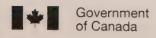
Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy announced that he will meet today in Ottawa with Parcuab Chaiyasan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand.

Mr. Chaiyasan arrived in Vancouver on September 17, commencing a week-long agenda of trade promotion and cultural events to mark Canada's Year of Asia Pacific (CYAP). In recognition of CYAP, the Thai government has provided funding for the National Dance Troupe of Thailand to perform at major venues across the country.

"I look forward to meeting with Minister Chaiyasan to discuss a broad range of political, economic and security issues related to Canada's bilateral relationship with Thailand," said Mr. Axworthy. "I also wish to commend the Government of Thailand for its energetic participation in Canada's Year of Asia Pacific. Promoting increased business, cultural and trade ties between Canada, Thailand and other Asian nations is what this year is all about."

During their bilateral meeting, Mr. Axworthy and Mr. Chaiyasan will discuss such issues as economic restructuring in Thailand, the situations in Cambodia and Burma, and the proposed ban on anti-personnel mines.

While in Vancouver on September 18, Mr. Chaiyasan delivered an address at Spotlight on Thailand, a three-day trade and investment seminar. On September 19, Mr. Chaiyasan delivered a speech on trade and investment opportunities in Thailand to the Petroleum Club in Calgary. In Ottawa, the Thai Foreign Minister will meet with Foreign Affairs Minister Axworthy, visit Parliament, and present a Tuk-Tuk (a three-wheel motorized vehicle) to the children's museum collection of the Canadian Museum of Civilization. This event will feature a performance by the National Dance Troupe of Thailand. Mr. Chaiyasan is then expected to travel to Toronto on September 23 to meet with members of the Ontario Club and the Thailand Business Association of Canada.





In 1996, bilateral trade between Canada and Thailand was \$1.6 billion. At the start of Canada's Year of Asia Pacific, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien led a Team Canada trade mission to the Philippines, Korea and Thailand, which resulted in \$2.1 billion in new business deals.

The Government of Canada has designated 1997 as Canada's Year of Asia Pacific to commemorate its role as this year's Chair of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation Forum.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Debora Brown Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (613) 995-1851

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874



NEWS RELEASE

CANADA'S YEAR
OF ASIA PACIFIC
1997 L'ANNÉE
CANADIENNE DE

September 23, 1997

No. 151

HUNDREDS OF YOUTHS TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE ON ASIA PACIFIC

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that 200 Canadian youths from across the country will gather in Winnipeg for Asia Connects, a national youth conference exploring Canada's relations with the Asia Pacific region, from September 28 to October 5. Hundreds more youths will participate in conference activities at multi-sites across the country and by accessing the Internet.

Asia Connects is the premier youth event to mark Canada's Year of Asia Pacific. In addition to the 200 delegates from high schools across Canada, the Winnipeg conference will include Asian students studying in Canada, delegations of youth from the Philippines and Malaysia (APEC hosts in 1996 and 1998 respectively) and other youth from Asia Pacific. Eleven multi-sites have been established in classrooms and other locations across the country, enabling teachers and students to participate in the Winnipeg proceedings via video-conferencing.

"This conference is designed to give hundreds of young Canadians the latest tools and information they need to learn about Canada's trade, foreign policy and cultural ties to Asia Pacific," said Mr. Axworthy. "Asia Connects will help these young people make contacts with other youth in Canada and Asia to share information and discover the kind of career opportunities that exist in one of the world's fastest-growing regions."

A conference Web site has also been created, inviting youth to register to participate in the conference via the Internet at www.tgmag.ca. Schools in Asia Pacific countries are also participating via the Internet.

Minister Axworthy will be joined at the Winnipeg conference by Malaysía's Foreign Minister Abdullah Badawi, and both will address youth at the opening ceremonies on September 29. Raymond Chan, Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific), will attend the closing ceremony for the Vancouver multi-site, located at Burnaby South Secondary High School.



Thanks to support from local sponsors, youth delegates will visit Winnipeg-area businesses involved in trade with Asia Pacific. Support from national corporate sponsors is also helping to defray conference costs and broaden the scope of the conference.

Asia Connects is sponsored by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and organized by the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, in co-operation with The Students Commission, a youth training organization with expertise in high-tech conference delivery. Human Resources Development Canada, the Canadian International Development Agency and Canadian Heritage have also provided funding for the conference.

Funding for the conference was provided for in the February 1997 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

Originally scheduled for May 4 to 11, the conference was postponed due to flooding in Manitoba.

- 30 -

A list of national and local corporate sponsors is attached, along with a listing of the multi-site locations.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Debora Brown Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (613) 995-1851

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

Leslie Zegalski Asia Pacific Foundation Winnipeg Office (204) 945-2256

This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

Asia Connects National Youth Conference, September 28 – October 5, 1997

NATIONAL CORPORATE SPONSORS

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PROVINCIAL MULTI-SITES

British Columbia Burnaby South Secondary School

(Vancouver)

Alberta Shaw Cable Communications Facility and

University of Calgary (Calgary)

Saskatchewan University of Saskatchewan (Saskatoon)

Ontario The Bell Centre, George Brown College

(Toronto)

Ouebec Café Électronique (Montreal)

New Brunswick McNaughton Science and Technology Centre

(Moncton)

Prince Edward Island University of PEI at Mayfield Meadows

Country Resort (Charlottetown)

Nova Scotia Auburn Drive High School (Dartmouth)

Newfoundland Ascension Collegiate (Bay Roberts)

Labrador JR Smallwood Secondary School (Wabush)

Yukon Maaniulujk High School (Rankin Inlet)

For more information on the multi-sites, please contact: Stéphane Delisle at (819) 777-8253.

EN-News Release

September 23, 1997

No. 152

AXWORTHY TO ATTEND 52ND SESSION OF UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy will attend the 52nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York from September 24 to 26 and from October 1 to 3. The Minister will deliver Canada's speech to the General Assembly on the afternoon of September 25.

"Canada has always supported the UN and has taken a leading role in its activities over the past 51 years. The UN has grown considerably since 1945. Canada's foreign policy has helped shape this evolution, and the UN remains, for us, the most vital multilateral forum," said Mr. Axworthy. "Canada is committed to continuing this tradition, which is why we are seeking a seat on the UN Security Council for 1999/2000. Our resulting capacity to influence the direction and policies of the UN, particularly on peacekeeping, peacebuilding and other human security issues, would be greatly enhanced."

The Minister will take advantage of his time at UNGA to advance international support for the newly negotiated treaty banning anti-personnel landmines, which was adopted in Oslo, Norway, last week. On Friday, September 26, the Norwegian Foreign Minister, Bjoern Tore Godal, will formally hand over the treaty to Mr. Axworthy in a ceremony at the UN.

During the first leg of his visit, Mr. Axworthy will meet with Secretary-General Kofi Annan to offer his support for the UN reform package the Secretary-General announced last July. He will also meet with his P-8 counterparts (G-7 countries plus Russia) as a follow-up to their last meeting at the Denver Summit in June.

The Minister and his Dutch counterpart Mr. Hans Van Mierlo will also co-chair a meeting of "Friends of Rapid Deployment," a group of countries, intent on improving the UN's capacity to contribute to global peace and security. Their objective is to examine practical approaches to implementing the recommendations of Canada's 1995 report, Towards a Rapid Reaction Capability for the United Nations.

Mr. Axworthy will also meet with a number of other foreign ministers, including those of Bolivia, Panama and Paraguay, in their capacities as representatives of the Rio Group, a forum of 14 Central and South American countries. In addition, he will take part in a meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)-Russia Permanent Joint Council. This will be the first meeting of this group since it was established last July at the NATO summit in Paris.

-30-

Minister Axworthy's UNGA program is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Debora Brown Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (613) 995-1851

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

András Vamos-Goldman Counsellor (Political Affairs) Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations (212) 848-1100 ext. 3760

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

VISIT OF THE HONOURABLE LLOYD AXWORTHY

CANADIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

TO THE 52ND UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MEDIA PROGRAM

Thursday, September 25

8:30-9:50	Breakfast meeting with the Central American Foreign Ministers (incl. Belize and Panama)
8:30-8:35	Photo opportunity
10:00-11:15	Meeting with the Rio Group Troika (Bolivia, Paraguay and Panama)
10:00-10:05	Photo opportunity
16:30 approx.	Speech by the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, to the UN General Assembly Location: General Assembly Hall
	Note: UN Broadcast Centre numbers for audio/video feed: 1. TV feed: Waterfront 1646 or at Switch UNN1 2. Audio: (212) 963-7656 3. Radio line: (212) 963-7646
17:00 approx.	Media availability - Delegates Entrance
Exact time TBC	Meeting with the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, Photo opportunity at beginning of meeting
20:30	Dinner in honour of the P-8 hosted by the U.S. Photo opportunity at beginning of dinner Location: National Academy of Design 1083 Fifth Avenue at 89th Street

Friday, September 26

NATO/Russia Permanent Joint Council Ministerial 9:00 Photo opportunity during first 10 minutes of meeting Location: ECOSOC Chamber at UN Headquarters Closed session of the NATO/Russia PJC begins 9:10 NATO/Russia PJC: "Family portrait" 11:05 Photo opportunity Location: Indonesian Lounge Hand-over ceremony of Landmine Treaty from 11:15 Norwegian government to Canadian government In attendance: Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, Norwegian Foreign Minister Bjoern Tore Godal Participating by video link from Geneva: President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Cornelio Sommaruga Location: UN Press Conference Room, Rm 226 Audio/video feed available

Wednesday, October 1

Bilateral meeting with H.E. Mr. Hennadiy Udovenko,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine and
President of the General Assembly
Photo opportunity at beginning of meeting
Location: GA200, Office of the President of the
General Assembly

Thursday, October 2

16:15 Bilateral meeting with H.E. Mrs. Madeleine Albright, Secretary of State of the United States Photo opportunity and media availability (TBC)

Note: While in New York, Minister Axworthy will also be meeting with Foreign Ministers from the Netherlands, the Philippines, Central America, the Rio Group, Brazil, Mexico, Italy, Guyana, Turkey, Jordan, Bangladesh, Cuba and Hungary.

Means Release

September 26, 1997

No. 153

RUSSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT CANADA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov will visit Canada from September 29 to 30. Although the two ministers have met a number of times in the past at P-8 meetings and during Mr. Axworthy's April 1996 visit to Russia, this will be Mr. Primakov's first official visit to Canada.

"Mr. Primakov's visit will provide an opportunity for dialogue on important international political issues, including Canada's candidacy for the United Nations Security Council, the campaign to ban anti-personnel mines, the NATO-Russia relationship and peacebuilding in Bosnia," said Mr. Axworthy. "I will also raise several bilateral priorities, including closer ties with Russia in the Arctic and the North and a more structured relationship in the Asia Pacific region."

During the two-day visit, Mr. Axworthy will hold a series of meetings with Mr. Primakov in Ottawa. The Russian minister will also meet with Governor General Roméo LeBlanc, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Speaker of the Senate Gildas Molgat, International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi and Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Jane Stewart.

Canada-Russia two-way trade, which was valued at \$781 million in 1996, is on the increase in 1997. Canadian expertise has had success in the oil, gas, construction equipment, telecommunications, agri-food and pharmaceuticals sectors. Canadian investment in Russia is also growing.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Debora Brown Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (613) 995-1851

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

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Mense Release

September 26, 1997

No. 154

DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced the following diplomatic appointments:

Yves Boulanger, becomes Ambassador to the Republic of Mali.

Dilys Buckley Jones, becomes Ambassador to the Republic of Zambia.

Michel Duval, becomes Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Jules Savaria, becomes Ambassador to Burkina-Faso.

J. Fernand Tanguay, becomes Ambassador to the Holy See.

- 30 -

Biographical notes are attached.

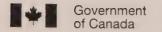
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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Yves Boulanger (BA, University of Sherbrooke, 1965; DES, University of Ottawa, 1969; BA [Economics], University of Sherbrooke, 1972; MA, University of Sherbrooke, 1973) has devoted his professional life to development assistance, initially serving as Director of the Canadian University Service Overseas in Upper Volta in 1967. Somewhat later he served directly under the aegis of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) from 1974 to 1980 as a co-operant in Niger and Zaire. He joined the Agency in 1980 and served abroad at the Embassy in Kigali. At CIDA headquarters, he has had a range of assignments including Director of Agriculture in the then Directorate General for Professional Services, Program Director for Asia and, most recently, Program Director for Bangladesh, a post which he has occupied since 1994. Mr. Boulanger is married to Hélène Demers-Boulanger. He succeeds Susan McCoy.

Dilys Buckley Jones (BA, Queen's University, 1965) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1965. In addition to her current assignment as Director of Liaison in the APEC '97 Canadian Co-ordinating Office, she has occupied a variety of functions in Ottawa, including Director of the South Pacific Division (1994-96) and Senior Advisor for Federal-Provincial Relations (1992-93). She has served in numerous missions abroad including Lima, Copenhagen, Mexico and Hong Kong. From 1987 to 1990, she was Chargé d'Affaires a.i. in Guatemala, and from 1990 to 1993, High Commissioner in Port of Spain. Ms. Buckley Jones succeeds Mary Mosser.

Michel Duval (BA, Université Laval, 1969; BSc, University of Montreal, 1972; MSc, University of Montreal, 1976; MAP, École nationale d'administration publique, 1980), born in Trois-Rivières, Quebec, entered the Department of External Affairs in 1973. He has served abroad in Paris at the Permanent Delegation of Canada to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, and in Budapest and Bonn. He has served at headquarters in numerous functional and political divisions including as Director of the Western European Relations Division (1992-95), Director of the Professional School at the Canadian Foreign Service Institute (1995-96) and, most recently, as Director of the Regional Security and Peacekeeping Division (since 1996). He is married to Louise Blais. Mr. Duval succeeds David Karsgaard.

Jules Savaria (MA, University of Montreal, 1971; PhD, University of Montreal, 1978) began his professional life as Regional Director for West Africa at the Canadian University Service Overseas in 1975 and spent several years as a consultant abroad and in Canada with a number of non-governmental organizations concerned with development assistance in Mali, Haiti and Cambodia. In 1980, he served with the United Nations Development Program in Senegal. Joining the Canadian International Development Agency in 1981, Mr. Savaria has occupied a wide range of positions, including Program Director for Haiti (1988), following which he served in the Development Assistance programs in embassies in Kinshasa and Conakry. Since 1995, he has been Director of the Educational Institutions Program in the Canadian Partnership Branch. Mr. Savaria is married to Isabelle Bindia and has four children. He succeeds Louise Ouimet.

J. Fernand Tanguay (BA, University of Ottawa, 1955; BPhil, Saint Paul University, 1956; MA, University of Ottawa, 1961; LL L, University of Ottawa, 1963; DES [Public Law and Administration], University of Ottawa, 1965) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1963 and had postings abroad in Moscow (twice, the second time as Minister), Bonn and Geneva as Minister and Deputy Permanent Representative to the Office of the United Nations. Mr. Tanguay occupied a wide range of positions in Ottawa, including Director of the United Nations Political and Institutional Affairs Division from 1978 to 1982 and Director General of the International Cultural Relations Bureau from 1988 to 1990. He was Diplomat in Residence and visiting professor in the Law Faculty at McGill University during the 1991-92 term. He left the Public Service in 1991 to become President of the Board of "Les Éditions du Méridien" and Director of the Dominican University College Foundation. Between 1993 and 1997 he served as Deputy Secretary General of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. Mr. Tanguay succeeds Léonard Legault.

News Release

September 26, 1997

No. 155

AXWORTHY ACCEPTS LANDMINE TREATY FROM NORWAY

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today officially accepted the "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction" from Norwegian Foreign Minister Bjoern Tore Godal. The hand-over of the treaty took place in New York, where both ministers are attending the 52nd session of the United Nations General Assembly.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan also attended the hand-over ceremony, and the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, participated from Geneva via video link. Mr. Stephen Goose, Program Director, International Campaign to Ban Landmines also took part.

"I am delighted to be accepting this treaty from Mr. Tore Godal today. I commend him and the Norwegian government for their superlative work in organizing the conference that led to the conclusion of this historic treaty. In less than 12 months, the international community has achieved an unprecedented goal by taking the notion of a treaty to ban landmines from concept to reality. The majority of nations in the world have recognized that it is time to put an end to these indiscriminate weapons once and for all. Our next goal will be to see the names of those countries that came to Oslo, and many more, inscribed indelibly on this document," said Mr. Axworthy.

Since last October when Mr. Axworthy challenged the international community to develop a treaty banning landmines for signature by December 1997, a broad coalition of international players, including governments and international and non-governmental organizations, has been engaged in a period of intense activity. This included a series of regional meetings on all continents, parallelled by a round of international conferences in Vienna, Brussels and, most recently, Oslo to build government commitment and to negotiate the text of the treaty. The final text of the treaty was negotiated and adopted in Oslo, by close to 100 countries, during the first three weeks of September.

The treaty will open for signature at a conference in Ottawa from December 2 to 4. Approximately 100 countries are expected to attend and sign the treaty at that time. The Ottawa Conference will also be the platform from which Mr. Axworthy plans to launch the next phase of the exercise, "Ottawa Process II," an international agenda for action to move collectively towards the universalization of the treaty and the development of substantial new international programs for demining and victim assistance.

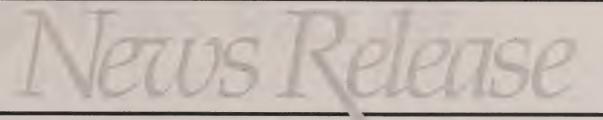
- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

The full text of the treaty may be viewed at http://www.vvaf.org or, may be obtained on request by calling the above number.



September 29, 1997

No. 156

MINISTERS HIGHLIGHT SUCCESS OF YOUTH INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM AS ASIA CONNECTS OPENS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today highlighted the success of the Department's Youth International Internship Program.

Mr. Axworthy made his remarks at the opening of Asia Connects, a national youth conference being held in Winnipeg from September 28 to October 5 to mark Canada's Year of Asia Pacific.

"The Youth International Internship Program is a prime example of the Government's commitment to help Canadian youth gain valuable work experience, both at home and abroad," said Mr. Axworthy. "A common theme of both Asia Connects and the international internship program is helping youth gain the skills and contacts they need to enter the global marketplace. It is appropriate that approximately 30 per cent of our interns are based in Asia Pacific, given that it is the world's fastest growing region."

The Department has developed internships for approximately 450 Canadian youths, in co-operation with 33 private sector and non-governmental organizations from across Canada. As of this month, 23 of the 33 projects had completed recruitment.

"These projects provide international opportunities for youth, while assisting many private sector companies, national associations and non-governmental organizations engaged in international activities," said Mr. Marchi. "The interns' hosts benefit from the talent and energy of Canadian youth, while young people gain the work experience that many prospective employers are looking for."

Projects deal with a wide variety of international issues, such as women's and children's rights, education, Aboriginal issues, peace and security, global health, international trade and environment. The program is open to persons 18-29 years of age, out-of-school, unemployed or underemployed. They must be legally permitted to work in Canada.

The Department's Youth International Internship Program is part of the Government's Youth Employment Strategy (YES), which was launched in February 1997 to create new work opportunities in areas with long-term job potential. International youth internship programs are delivered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Canadian International Development Agency, Human Resources Development Canada, Environment Canada, Industry Canada, and Canadian Heritage.

Asia Connects is a national multi-media conference which has attracted 200 youth delegates to Winnipeg, in addition to hundreds more participants at 11 provincial/territorial sites across the country and via the Internet. Youth delegates will have an opportunity to learn about the Asia Pacific and meet visiting youth from the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia and Vietnam, as well as Asian youth studying in Canada.

Mr. Axworthy will also attend the conference's closing ceremony on October 4 in Winnipeg.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Debora Brown
Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs
(613) 995-1851

Leslie Swartman Office of the Minister for International Trade (613) 992-7332

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

Youth wishing to apply to Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Youth International Internship Program should call:

(613) 944-2415 in the Ottawa/Hull area 1-800-559-2888 from other areas of Canada

Or consult the DFAIT youth Web site at: www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/english/culture/youth/menu.htm

For more information on how to participate in *Asia Connects*, youth should consult the Internet site: www.tgmag.ca or contact the national conference headquarters in Winnipeg at (204) 945-5585.

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca



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NEWS RELEASE

October 4, 1997

No. 157

AXWORTHY COMMENDS YOUTH INVOLVED IN ASIA CONNECTS AND NOTES RECOMMENDATIONS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy congratulated youth across the country for their involvement in Asia Connects, and received the final report of the national multimedia youth conference. Mr. Axworthy made his remarks at the close of the week-long event in Winnipeg, at which participants emphasized the need for more opportunities for youth to learn about the people and cultures of Asia Pacific.

A prominent theme among youth at the conference was the need for Canadians of all ages to appreciate the full diversity of the people of Asia Pacific, as a prerequisite to good trade relations. Youth stressed the need for more opportunities for ongoing dialogue and exchanges with other youth from Asia Pacific. Participants also emphasized that they are keen to play a part in addressing such challenging issues as child labour, land mines and the environment, in partnership with their peers in Asia Pacific.

"It is clear that Canadian youth are poised to play a dynamic role in the coming 'Pacific Century', said Mr. Axworthy. "Using advanced telecommunications, these young people have extended a hand of friendship to their peers in Asia, making mutual respect, understanding and co-operation their first priority. They have demonstrated impressive leadership skills and insight that bode well for Canada's future relations with Asia Pacific."

The conference was hosted by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and organized by the Asia Pacific Foundation, to enable Canadian youth to discover the rich cultures of Asia Pacific and Canada's political and economic ties to the region. Youth participated at the main Winnipeg site, at one of 11 regional sites across Canada, or by Internet.



Mr. Axworthy commended youth for the frank and open nature of their discussions on a range of subjects. "Youth across Canada and Asia took a hard and honest look at the opportunities and obstacles we face in creating a better future together," said Mr. Axworthy. "They want to become a part of the solution. I am very pleased to receive their report, and I intend to share their views with the Prime Minister as he prepares to host leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in November."

Youth delegates from the Philippines (APEC Chair in 1996) and Malaysia (APEC Chair in 1998) also attended the conference in Winnipeg. The high-tech elements of the conference were co-ordinated by The Students' Commission and sponsored by Bell Canada and Corel Computers Ltd.

This special youth event was held to mark Canada's Year of Asia Pacific, and underscores the active participation of youth in activities held throughout the year as part of Canada's role as 1997 Chair of the APEC forum.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

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News Release

October 6, 1997

No. 158

MARCHI ANNOUNCES TEAM CANADA INC

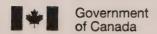
International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today announced a series of new measures to enhance the federal government's trade promotion services and help Canadian companies increase their exports.

These initiatives, developed in consultation with the private sector and other federal government departments, enhance existing services in Canada's trade promotion network, which Mr. Marchi today designated "Team Canada Inc."

"This network recognizes that we must apply the success of Team Canada on home ice as well," said Mr. Marchi. "All levels of government and the private sector must work together as partners to encourage and assist Canadian companies — particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) — in selling their products and services around the world."

At the annual meeting of the Alliance of Manufacturers and Exporters Canada in Quebec, Mr. Marchi outlined five new initiatives under Team Canada Inc:

- the establishment of a Team Canada Inc Advisory Board chaired by Mr. Lynton (Red) Wilson, Chairman of the Board of BCE;
- a 30-percent increase in the number of Trade Commissioners assigned outside Canada;
- a new unit at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) to focus on the export needs of SMEs, which will be headed by Mrs. Joanna Townsend, a businesswoman with extensive international trade experience and current chair of the Sectoral Advisory Group on International Trade for Business and Professional Services;
- an enhanced 24-hour trade access service, available on the Internet through ExportSource at http://exportsource.gc.ca, as well as through a toll-free telephone number (1-888-811-1119) that connects to trade centres across the country; and



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• an integrated, results-oriented business plan for trade and investment promotion, to be presented to Treasury Board by Industry Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and DFAIT. This will be followed by a report to Parliament by the Minister for International Trade on the results achieved.

Industry Minister John Manley and Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lyle Vanclief each welcomed these measures, which had been prepared in close consultation with them.

"Team Canada Inc is both an opportunity and a challenge for Canadian businesses of all sizes to work with us in seizing the wealth of opportunity emerging in the global knowledge economy," said Mr. Manley.

"I am delighted with the progress made to co-ordinate better international business development activities across government departments and agencies, and I see Team Canada Inc as another very positive step forward," said Mr. Vanclief.

Together, these measures constitute several steps toward fulfilling the Red Book commitment to build on the success of Team Canada and strengthen the competitiveness of Canadian business in the global marketplace.

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A backgrounder on Team Canada Inc is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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France Simard Industry Canada (613) 943-2502

Michelle Roy Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (613) 759-7900

This document is also on DFAIT's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

Backgrounder

TEAM CANADA INC

The Government of Canada is actively seeking new and innovative ways to encourage and assist Canadian companies — particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) — in selling their products and services around the world.

To better co-ordinate new trade promotion initiatives and provide potential and current exporters with a one-stop shopping facility, the federal government has decided to tightly co-ordinate related resources and services. The name Team Canada Inc reflects the close partnership between the private sector and all levels of government that was needed in order to realize these objectives. The following measures will be introduced under the umbrella of this new and evolving network:

1. The creation of a Team Canada Inc Advisory Board

This committee, to be chaired by Mr. Lynton (Red) Wilson, Chairman of the Board and CEO of BCE Inc. and author of the International Business Development Review Report in 1994 — whose recommendations have been used to improve the department's service to the private sector — will replace DFAIT's International Trade Advisory Committee (ITAC). The new Board will be smaller, with the aim of providing counsel more quickly. It will continue to provide advice on trade policy and market access questions, but it will now incorporate the vital role of trade promotion and investment. Toward the Red Book commitment to establish a trade promotion agency, this committee will also provide advice on international business development activities, programs and services.

2. Increasing the number of Trade Commissioners abroad

DFAIT will assign 10 additional Trade Commissioners each year to key markets abroad until at least 70 percent of Canada's professional trade staff are working outside the country. Currently, the department employs 463 Trade Commissioners, with only 50 percent stationed abroad. This reallocation of resources will help diversify Canada's penetration of priority and emerging markets abroad, enhance its market intelligence-gathering capacity, and permit a greater emphasis on the promotion of investment flows. The initiative was made possible by a co-ordinated sharing of exporter preparation responsibilities among Industry Canada, regional development agencies, the provinces and other partners in government.

3. The creation of a special SME unit at DFAIT

Currently, resources within DFAIT to assist SMEs are spread across numerous divisions. Faced with the fact that only 10 percent of SMEs are exporters, this unit will ensure that all trade promotion services within the department are adapted to the needs of this important group. This unit will concentrate on the requirements of SMEs in relation to export markets, and will ensure that all trade promotion services are adapted to the special needs of new exporter constituencies such as women, Aboriginals and young entrepreneurs. It will also harness Canada's multicultural, multilingual realities to enhance trade links around the globe. It will co-ordinate its activities with similar units in other departments and agencies and build on the work being done by trade associations and chambers of commerce. This unit will be headed by Mrs. Joanna Townsend, President of Townsend Trade Strategies Inc. and current chair of DFAIT's Business and Professional Services Sectoral Advisory Group on International Trade.

Projects being considered for this special unit include:

- a government-private sector roundtable on the needs of export-ready SMEs;
- SME trade missions; and
- the tailoring of export programs and services to meet the needs of SMEs.

4. Enhanced 24-hour access to exporter services

This project has two components:

ExportSource brings together wide-ranging export-related a) information within a single Web site available through the Internet at http://exportsource.gc.ca. The site is targeted at companies interested in learning how to export, companies new to the export business, and established exporters who want to diversify. It provides these groups with information on market research, export financing, export regulations/ logistics, trade statistics, export contracts, trade shows and missions. ExportSource provides seamless service delivery for businesses, with features allowing for singlesite access and search facilities across a number of government programs and departments, including Industry Canada, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada and DFAIT. Efforts are being made to include all 16 federal departments with international business development activities. Accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, ExportSource is essentially a virtual export office.

- b) A 1-888 number currently connects callers to Industry Canada's Canadian Business Service Centres across the country. Operators are available to answer questions weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. local time, and a "fax-back" system operates 24 hours a day. By the new year, the system will be enhanced to provide companies with telephone access to all trade-related services beyond the Service Centres, to include the International Trade Centres.
- 5. An integrated, results-oriented business plan for international business development

The plan will be prepared annually by Industry Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and DFAIT for presentation through the new Team Canada Inc Advisory Board to Ministers. The Minister for International Trade will subsequently report to Parliament on the results achieved.

Together, these measures constitute several steps toward fulfilling the Red Book commitment to build on public-private partnerships through the Team Canada model and to work toward the development of a trade promotion agency.

October 1997



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October 6, 1997

No. 159

MARCHI PRESENTS 1997 CANADA EXPORT AWARDS

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today presented the 1997 Canada Export Awards to 10 Canadian companies, selected from over 200 candidates, for their outstanding export accomplishments. The presentation ceremony was held in Quebec City, in conjunction with the second annual meeting of the Alliance of Manufacturers & Exporters Canada.

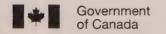
"I applaud the success of these firms in capturing new markets and providing job opportunities for thousands of Canadians," said Mr. Marchi. "They are an inspiration for all Canadian businesses to look beyond our borders to sell their products and services and I encourage other firms to emulate their entrepreneurial spirit."

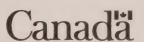
Under the theme Partners in Trade, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade welcomed Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC), Export Development Corporation (EDC), and Stentor, the alliance of Canada's only full-service telecommunications companies, as official sponsors of the 1997 Canada Export Award program.

"The Canada Export Awards symbolize the successful partnership between government and the private sector," said Mr. Marchi.
"Team Canada partners are setting the stage to do business abroad so that more Canadian companies can succeed internationally."

For the first time, special recognition was given by the program's sponsors to three Canada Export Award winners. Under the auspices of the Canada Export Award program, Wulftec International from Ayer's Cliff, Quebec, was honoured with the CIBC Job Creation Achievement, Berg Chilling Systems of Scarborough was presented with the EDC Smaller Exporter Achievement, and the Bell Canada Innovation and Technology Achievement went to Nortel's (Northern Telecom Limited) Belleville Location.

This year, as in previous years, Canada's geographical and industrial diversity is well represented, with winning companies





from coast to coast, and a wide range of innovative products and services including entertaining family programming, sophisticated dental implant technology, and state-of-the-art communications systems and software.

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A list of the 1997 Canada Export Award winners and company profiles is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

1997 Canada Export Award Winners

Berg Chilling Systems Inc. (Scarborough, Ontario) - EDC Smaller Exporter Achievement

Berg Chilling Systems Inc., a small, family-owned business, which employs 81 people, designs and manufactures industrial refrigeration equipment, ice makers and machinery for process cooling. Among its many clients are those involved in heavy industry, car manufacturing, plastics, graphics/printing, metal forming and agri-food. Berg also supplies food freeze-drying systems to the food-processing industry.

Blitz Design Corp. (Langley, British Columbia)

Blitz Design Corp. develops and markets unique sugar-free "power" breath mints. In just four years since the 10-person firm was formed, its breath fresheners are stocked on grocery and drugstore shelves in more than 15 countries around the world. In the United States, its largest market, Blitz has made it to the top 10 in sales of breath fresheners — hot on the heels of such established name brands as Breathsavers, Tic Tac, Certs and Clorets. In the past three years, Blitz's total sales have grown by 257 per cent, with exports currently making up 84 per cent of its sales.

Cinar Films Inc. (Montreal, Quebec)

Children in more than 100 countries are hooked on Cinar Films Inc.'s menu of solid family entertainment programming that is easy on the eye and full of positive images for impressionable young minds. Cinar creates and distributes such name brand shows as $Arthur^{\text{TM}}$, $Lassie^{\text{TM}}$, The Busy World of Richard Scarry The Adventures of Paddington Bear and Wimzie's House Loved, familiar characters to kids of all ages.

Hummingbird Communications Ltd. (North York, Ontario)
Hummingbird Communications Ltd. develops and solls we

Hummingbird Communications Ltd. develops and sells world-class personal computer (PC) Internet-working and document distribution software solutions designed for seamless integration within corporate networks. The fastest-growing software company in Canada, according to *Profit Magazine* (1995 and 1996), Hummingbird is the fourth-largest Canadian software company by revenue, and employs more than 400 people.

Image Processing Systems (Scarborough, Ontario)

Image Processing Systems (IPS) develops, makes and sells automated vision inspection systems that are used by manufacturers of television sets, computer monitor displays, automotive glass and beer bottles. The company is best known for its Automated Display Alignment and Inspection (ADI) System, which is used to ensure that each television and computer monitor tube is focussed, full-sized, colour sharp and properly positioned vertically and horizontally, while detecting any defective units immediately.

Innova Technologies Corporation (Toronto, Ontario)

Innova Technologies Corporation manufactures and markets a dental implant technique known as the Endopore System, which is used to anchor dental prostheses such as dentures, partial plates, bridgework

and single teeth to the jawbone. Unlike other implant systems, which rely on screws to moor dental work into place, the Endopore System is a thimble-shaped implant with a porous coating that allows bone to grow into its surface, thus meshing the implant with the jaw. The Endopore System is easy to install, provides a shorter recovery period and less discomfort for patients, as well as better long-term performance than more traditional types of dental implants.

McCain International Inc. (Florenceville, New Brunswick)
McCain International Inc. is the international market development arm of McCain Foods Limited. It exports a full line of processed frozen convenience foods such as french fries, potato products, vegetables, desserts, pizza, juice, onion rings, appetizers and oven-ready meals to more than 65 countries.

Nortel's (Northern Telecom Limited) Belleville Location (Belleville, Ontario) — Bell Canada Innovation and Technology Achievement
Nortel's (Northern Telecom Limited) Belleville facility produces advanced telecommunications equipment such as private digital switching systems, which permit communication among voice, data and multimedia terminals. The Belleville plant maintains design ownership of Nortel's Meridian 1 Small Systems, Meridian 1 Integrated Solutions, Magellan Passport base hardware and Passport Bandwidth Consolidation (voice and transparent data services). In 1996, Nortel Belleville, which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary, contributed \$1 billion to Nortel's worldwide sales. More than 80 per cent of Belleville's products are shipped to customers in some 150 countries outside North America.

Tesco's top drive systems are installed in land and offshore rigs in more than 20 countries. These systems are essentially robotic machines made up of a drilling motor and pipehandler used for drilling oil, gas and geothermal wells. Tesco's fiscal 1997 exports comprised \$60.3 million, or 60 per cent, of its sales, climbing an incredible 1051 per cent from \$5.2 million in 1995. Its employment ranks have burgeoned too — from three people when the company first opened its doors, to 440 today.

Wulftec International Inc. - CIBC Job Creation Achievement (Ayer's Cliff, Quebec

Wulftec International Inc., formed in 1990, designs and manufactures a line of stretch wrapping machinery used in factories across the United States, South and Central America and Europe. From soft drink cases to farm produce, Wulftec's machines can automatically apply a full web of recyclable polyethylene film or netting around pallets of goods, providing convenient, secure shipment to stores and warehouses worldwide. Some of Wulftec's models can wrap up to 110 pallets an hour, achieving a uniform stretch and consistent appearance that could never be matched by hand.

October 9, 1997

No. 160

CANADA NUMBER ONE LOCATION FOR BUSINESS INVESTMENT COMPARED TO U.S. AND EUROPE, STUDY CONCLUDES

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today welcomed an independent study that concludes that Canada has lower overall business costs than the United States and five leading European countries.

The study also found that Canada was the lowest-cost location in each of eight key manufacturing industries examined, and that 14 of 17 Canadian cities studied led the low-cost rankings. In addition, every Canadian city studied was less expensive than all U.S. cities studied.

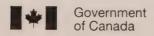
"These results clearly show that, on the basis of cost, Canada is the number one location for investors compared to the U.S. and Europe," said Mr. Marchi. "This is important news for investors looking for a low-cost, competitive location. It's also important to all Canadians, because every \$1 billion in new investment in Canada is estimated to create 45 000 jobs over five years."

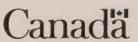
Low start-up costs, low telecommunications rates, low interest rates and the lowest overall tax burden of the seven nations gives Canada a 5.4 per cent cost advantage over the United States. Canada's cost advantage ranged from 1.8 per cent, over second-place Sweden, to 11.8 per cent over seventh-place Germany.

"Canadians must now aggressively develop a global brand name for quality and low cost," added the Minister. "We have a powerful message to send about Canada's attractiveness as the most cost-competitive base from which to serve the NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement] market. I hope that all Canadian political and business leaders will take this message across Canada and abroad."

The study, The Competitive Alternative: A Comparison of Business Costs in Canada, Europe and the United States, was conducted by KPMG, an international consulting firm. It compares the cost factors that companies look at when deciding to locate and operate in a given area. Costs are compared from start-up through the first 10 years of operation. Forty-two cities are studied — 27 in North America and 15 in Europe.

Manufacturing sectors studied were: electronics; food processing; medical devices; metal fabrication; pharmaceuticals; plastics; software production; and telecommunications equipment. They were chosen because they are a mix of traditional; capital-intensive industries (such as





metal fabrication) and skilled, labour-intensive industries (such as software production).

Other key findings regarding Canada are:

- Canadian cities top the list of the most cost-competitive centres from which to serve the NAFTA market;
- Compared to the United States, business costs in Canada are about \$1 million a year lower for an average firm of about 100 employees on revenues of \$10 million. Canada's cost advantage over some other countries studied was even greater.
- Canada's effective corporate income tax rate including federal, regional and local taxes is among the lowest of the seven countries studied.
- Canada's research and development incentives give Canada a powerful competitive advantage in knowledge-intensive industries.

The KPMG study reinforces the many positive forecasts made by international organizations about Canada. Just last month, for example, the International Monetary Fund predicted that Canada would lead the industrial world in economic growth this year and next. The study also complements overall federal initiatives to increase investment in Canada, and underscores the Government's work to promote the advantages of investing in Canada as a base from which to serve NAFTA.

Some of this work involves: spreading this positive message abroad; focussing on priority industry sectors; helping small and medium-sized enterprises to grow through investment partnerships and venture capital; and forging new alliances between the three levels of government and the private sector.

Abstracts of the study can be obtained from KPMG's Web site at www.kpmg.ca. For complete volumes, contact the publisher, Prospectus Inc., in Ottawa at (613) 231-2727 or 1-800-575-1146.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

Background Paper

The Competitive Alternative: A Comparison of Business Costs in Canada, the United States and Europe

The KPMG International Study of Business Costs challenges many international assumptions about the cost of doing business in different countries. For example, Canadian business costs are significantly lower than in the U.S., and every Canadian city studied had lower business costs than every U.S. city studied.

The study rigorously measured 42 cities in Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States on the same factors across eight industrial sectors - a comparison beyond the capacity of many small to medium size firms. The study helps executives considering a new operation in North America or Europe to identify locations that merit further consideration. While a final investment decision must also include non-cost factors such as workforce availability, quality of life, education, and medical care, business costs are still among the main factors in an investment decision.

The Model

Authors Stuart MacKay and Glenn Mair of KPMG collected data for all industries in each of the locations (see Exhibit 1). KPMG developed business scenarios in eight industries: each facility was assumed to have sales in excess of US\$10 million and a minimum of 100 employees. The analysis focussed on costs of establishing facilities on a 5-10 acre site in suburban areas zoned for light-to-medium industrial purposes.

Key Findings

Overall Business Costs Are Lowest In Canada

For the eight industries as a whole, Canada is the lowest-cost country. The countries, in order of cost and index rating (United States=100) are ranked as follows:

- Canada (index 94.6) 1.
- Sweden (index 96.3) 2.
- United Kingdom (index 98.3)
- 4. United States (index 100.0)
- 5. Italy (index 102.8)6. France (index 103.6)
- Germany (index 107.2) 7.

STUDY OVERVIEW

Manufacturing Industries Examined

ElectronicsFood ProcessingMedical Devices		Metal Fabrication Pharmaceuticals Plastics	•	Software Telecommunication Equipment
Jurisdictions Studied				
<pre>Canada • Calgary, AB* • Charlottetown, PE • Edmonton, AB • Halifax, NS* • Hamilton, ON • London, ON</pre>	•	Moncton, NB Montreal, QC* Ottawa, ON Quebec City, QC Sarnia, ON Saskatoon, SK	•	Sudbury, ON St. John's, NF Toronto, ON* Vancouver, BC Winnipeg, MB
France • Grenoble*	•	Toulouse*	•	Valenciennes*
Germany ● Darmstadt*	•	Dresden*	•	Dusseldorf*
Italy ◆ Avezzano*	•	Modena*	•	Turin*
Sweden ● Goteborg*	•	Karlskoga*	•	Malmo*
United Kingdom ● Cardiff*	•	Manchester*	•	Telford*
<pre>United States Austin, TX Bellingham, WA Boston, MA* Colorado Springs,CO*</pre>	•	Columbus, OH Minneapolis, MN Norfolk, VA* Raleigh, NC	•	Sacramento, CA Scranton, PA*

^{*} Included in the international comparison.

Location-sensitive Cost Factors Examined

 Industrial land Construction Electricity Telecommunication 	Labour Wages and salaries Statutory benefits Other benefits	Transport/distributionInterest/depreciationIncome taxesOther taxes
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Component Costs Vary By Country: Some Surprises

The seven countries have particular strengths in different cost areas:

- 1. Initial investment costs are lowest in the United States and Canada. Land costs are lowest in the United States, and construction costs are lowest in Canada.
- 2. Labour costs, including wages and benefits, are lowest in the United Kingdom, followed by Canada. Labour costs account for more than half of location-sensitive annual costs. Some social programs such as health care appear to be a competitive advantage.
- 3. Transportation costs to the North American/European marketplace are lowest in the United Kingdom and Germany.
- 4. Electricity costs are lowest in Sweden, followed by Canada.
- 5. Telecommunications costs are lowest in Canada and the United States.
- 6. Interest costs, reflecting the combination of interest rates and investment costs, are lowest in Canada.
- 7. The relative corporate tax burden, defined as the sum of incomebased taxes and property-based taxes, is lowest in Canada and Sweden.

Results are Consistent Across Industries

With a few exceptions, the overall rankings of countries are consistent across each of the eight industries. Canada is ranked first and Sweden is ranked second for all eight industries. The size of the advantage varies by industry. For example, Canada's advantage over Sweden is less than 2.5 per cent of all industries except software production, where the availability of research and development tax credits gives Canada an advantage of more than five per cent.

Results Vary with Exchange Rates

The study results will vary with exchange rates. For example, at a current Canadian dollar value of US\$0.73, Canada's cost index of 94.6 gives it an overall cost advantage of 5.4 per cent over the United States. This advantage would only be lost if the value of the Canadian dollar were to increase by 14 per cent, to US\$0.83.

Further Information

KPMG Canada conceived, researched and wrote the study, with sponsorship from the Royal Bank of Canada, Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and Ontario Hydro. Prospectus Inc., the report's publisher, and KPMG also shared the costs of its preparation. The study updates and expands on similar analyses conducted in 1994, 1995 and 1996. A separate study focussed on Atlantic Canada is also available.



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INCOS INCOSE

October 9, 1997

No. 161

MARCHI WELCOMES DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO CANADA

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today welcomed the Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, Valery M. Serov, to Canada. During Mr. Serov's two-day visit, he will attend a bilateral business conference and meet several federal Cabinet ministers. Mr. Serov is leading a delegation of more than 60 Russian business leaders and several senior government officials.

"I am pleased to welcome Mr. Serov to Canada to participate in joint sessions aimed at intensifying economic co-operation between our two nations," said Mr. Marchi. "The business conference and bilateral meetings will help expand commercial links and will work toward the removal of obstacles to growth in our trade and investment relations."

On October 9, Mr. Serov will meet with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Minister of Foreign Affairs Lloyd Axworthy, Minister for International Trade Sergio Marchi, and Minister of Transport David Collenette.

On October 10, Mr. Serov and Mr. Marchi will co-chair the third session of the annual Canada-Russia Intergovernmental Economic Commission (IEC). The IEC is an industry-led conference whose goal is to increase trade, investment and transfer of technology between Canada and Russia. With more than 100 Canadian companies and over 165 business people and officials taking part, this year's IEC will be the largest ever.

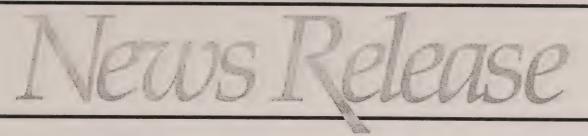
Several working-group meetings and bilateral discussions will take place prior to the IEC. On October 8, the Fuel and Energy Working Group will meet in Calgary. Sectoral meetings will also take place in Ottawa on October 9, and new forums will be launched on industry development in advanced-technology sectors and on science and technology co-operation.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca



October 10, 1997

No. 162

AXWORTHY CONGRATULATES ICBL ON NOBEL PRIZE WIN

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today congratulated the International Campaign to Ban Land Mines (ICBL) and its Co-ordinator, Ms. Jody Williams, following the announcement that ICBL had been awarded the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize.

"I am delighted at the Nobel Committee's choice and offer my sincerest congratulations to Ms. Williams and all members of the ICBL, including its Canadian member, Mines Action Canada," said Mr. Axworthy. "The ICBL, whose nomination I endorsed last February, has mobilized and empowered millions of citizens worldwide with unprecedented speed and effectiveness. Under Ms. Williams' leadership, the campaign has become a highly articulate moral and diplomatic force within the field of international disarmament," added the Minister.

The ICBL has been in operation since 1992 and represents more than 1000 non-governmental organizations in over 60 countries. Canada has worked in close partnership with the ICBL since May 1996 to help build the coalition of states and international and non-governmental organizations that has made a treaty banning anti-personnel mines a reality. Close to 100 countries are expected to come to Ottawa from December 2 to 4 to sign this treaty.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Debora Brown Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (613) 995-1851

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca



October 10, 1997

No. 163

CANADIAN OBSERVERS AT SECOND SUMMIT OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that Canada will participate as an Official Observer at the second summit of the Council of Europe, on October 10 and 11, in Strasbourg, France.

"This first-time attendance by Canada as an Official Observer at a summit of the Council will allow us to express our interest in the Council's affairs, the harmonization of an expanded Europe, the evolution of democracy and the promotion of human values in all member countries of the Council, and to highlight our philosophy of promoting closer transatlantic ties with the entire European continent," said Mr. Axworthy.

The Council of Europe, one of the most important pan-European institutions, was founded in 1949 and comprises some 40 member countries. Its role is based on human rights protection and assistance to former Communist countries in Eastern and Central Europe. In May 1996, Canada obtained Official Observer status, and sits on a number of committees and participates in numerous activities in the areas of culture, heritage, communications, education, human rights, the media, gender equality and justice.

In December 1996, Canada and the European Union signed a Political Declaration and Action Plan whose principles are in line with those of the Council of Europe. The plan proposes to give new impetus to the evolution of democracy, promote the efficient administration of public affairs, encourage the application of principles of justice, and monitor respect for human rights, especially in Central, Southeastern and Eastern Europe. The plan also touches on stability, the free market and economic growth in Europe.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (613) 995-1851

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

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October 10, 1997

No. 164

CANADA AND RUSSIA TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC TIES

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today announced that Canada and Russia have agreed to hold talks on measures that will facilitate and increase two-way trade by the year 2000.

"These consultations, due to begin by the end of 1997, will also examine measures to accelerate Russian integration into world markets," Mr. Marchi said.

The Minister spoke at the Third Annual Canada-Russia Intergovernmental Economic Commission (IEC) which took place today in Ottawa. Mr. Marchi co-chaired the Commission's Plenary session with Mr. Valery Serov, Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation.

The IEC is an industry-led bilateral forum working to expand trade and economic relations between Canada and Russia, and to eliminate trade irritants and obstacles that companies face in expanding their business.

Mr. Serov and Mr. Marchi witnessed the signing of a \$22 million contract for housing components for Sakhalin Island in the Russian Far East from Royal Group Technologies Limited of Woodbridge, Ontario. Local contractors in Sakhalin will use Canadian-manufactured components to build 800 housing units for victims of a major earthquake in the region in May 1995.

"We are pleased that the Export Development Corporation could provide financing to support this commendable project,"
Mr. Marchi said.

The Minister for International Trade also announced that the Canadian and Russian governments will seek ways to make available additional export financing, backed by Russian sovereign guarantees, for priority investment development projects.

Nearly 140 Canadians, representing 106 companies, several industry associations and universities participated in the IEC, along with federal and provincial officials. There were more than seventy Russian participants, including business people and officials from the national and several regional governments.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Leslie Swartman Office of the Minister for International Trade (613) 992-7332

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

Canada-Russia Intergovernmental Economic Commission, October 10, 1997

Announcements

- Royal Plastics of Woodbridge, Ontario, has received an order to supply building components for an 800-unit housing construction project on Sakhalin Island. The contract, worth approximately \$22 million, involves materials to be manufactured in Canada for construction by local contractors in Russia. The housing units will be used for victims of an earthquake that hit the island in 1995.
- MDS Aero Support Corporation of Montreal, Quebec, recently established a joint venture with the Ural Civil Aviation Works in Russia for the development and marketing of aero engines blade coating technologies.
- Bombardier Inc. of Montreal, Quebec, recently received Russian certification of its full family of Challenger aircraft, the Regional Jet and the Canadair SE, as well as the Dash 8-100, 200 and 300. This process, conducted in only four months, did not require any design modifications to Bombardier's aircraft.
- Bata Industries Ltd. of Don Mills, Ontario, opened two stores in Moscow last month. The Bata Shoe Museum in Toronto is currently hosting an exhibit of the Clothing and Customs of Siberia in co-operation with the Russian Museum of Ethnology. This exhibit will be travelling to the Canadian Museum of Civilization in June, 1998.
- CANDESAL Inc. of Ottawa, Ontario, is co-operating with the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy (Minatom) in the design and building of a floating nuclear power generation system and an advanced reverse osmosis desalination system.
- Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Toronto, Ontario, was recently selected as "twinning" partner by Vorozhdenie Bank. It now has a permanent representative in Moscow.
- DMR Consulting Group of Montreal, Quebec, will soon open an office in Russia to offer information technology services.
- Pratt & Whitney Canada have recently signed an agreement with Russian aircraft manufacturer Ilyushin to supply engines for a new version of the IL-114 turboprop aircraft.
- Pratt & Whitney Rus, St. Petersburg, Russia, was recently established to supply a full range of turboprop, turboshaft and turbofan engines for the Russian civil aviation industry.

- The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) will open an office in Moscow later this year to promote Canadian higher education to a new generation of Russian students.
- XB Systems Inc of Montreal, Quebec, has created a joint venture, OAO VPI in Russia to provide information distribution and data broadcasting services. It will open an office in Moscow's Ostankino broadcasting tower later this month. Their first client is the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which recently awarded a contract to the company.
- Jamesway Incubator Company of Cambridge, Ontario, has sold poultry incubators and hatchers, and provided training to Roskav Poultry Farm in Pervomaiske, Leningrad Oblast. The transaction is valued at US\$250 000.
- Productions Pascal Blais of Montreal, Quebec, began development of a unique IMAX camera this year with Russian and Japanese partners. Pascal Blais, Russian Studio Panorama of Yaroslavl, and a Japanese consortium have also signed an agreement to co-produce an animated IMAX film of Hemingway's The Old Man and the Sea with a budget of \$2.5 million.

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October 10, 1997

No. 165

CHAN TO PROMOTE NICHE MARKETS IN CHINA, HONG KONG AND JAPAN

Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan will travel to China, Hong Kong and Japan to promote new business opportunities for Canadian firms and enhanced bilateral trade, from October 10 to 17.

"This visit is targeted at matching Canadian firms to niche markets where meaningful export opportunities exist," said Mr. Chan. "The federal government is doing its part to give leading Canadian companies the contacts, visibility and access to capital they need to have an impact in these lucrative Asian markets."

While in China from October 11 to 13, Mr. Chan and Canadian business leaders will attend the 1997 Liaoning International Trade Fair in Dalian, located in China's northeastern region. Mr. Chan will promote Canada's trade and economic interests in Dalian, a city currently pursuing an aggressive campaign to become the Hong Kong of northeast China.

In Hong Kong, Mr. Chan will meet with the Chief Secretary of the Administration of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Mrs. Anson Chan, other government leaders and representatives from various Hong Kong firms.

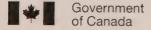
Mr. Chan will then travel to Kobe, Japan on October 15 to support a Canadian delegation attending the annual two-day meeting of the Kansai-Canada West Business Forum (KCWBF). Mr. Chan will open the Forum and deliver the opening address. The KCWBF brings together senior business leaders from western Japan and western Canada to exchange views and foster partnerships between the two regions.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Hilary Humphrey Office of the Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) (613) 995-1852

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca



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NEWS RELEASE

October 16, 1997

No. 166

MANITOBA CELEBRATES CANADA'S YEAR OF ASIA PACIFIC

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that Manitoba has hosted 31 cultural projects to date and will showcase a number of exceptional works this fall to mark Canada's Year of Asia Pacific (CYAP). Mr. Axworthy made the announcement following on the success of "Asia Connects," a national high-tech youth conference held in Winnipeg from September 28 to October 5, which focussed on Canada's relationship with the Asia Pacific region.

"This series of special events is enabling Manitobans to witness first-hand the diverse cultures, practices and histories of countries in Asia Pacific, " said Mr. Axworthy. "I am delighted that so many people in this province are taking part in Canada's Year of Asia Pacific, and that awareness of the region is building. As Asia Pacific continues to experience significant changes and economic growth, Manitobans are well positioned to be trade allies and partners in progress."

Numerous CYAP projects are scheduled for the balance of the year, including:

- a special return engagement by Kazuhiro Koizumi, former Music Director of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, who will perform as part of the Symphony's 50th Anniversary Celebration (October 30 to November 1);
- a performance by the Folkloric Ballet of Chile, (October 20 to 22); and
- an Asian Heritage Film and Video Festival, featuring rare films from South Asian cultures presented by the Winnipeg Film Group (November 14 to 20).

The Government of Canada has designated 1997 as Canada's Year of Asia Pacific in honour of its role as this year's chair of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum. Activities planned across the country, throughout the year,



include business and trade seminars at the local and national level, cultural and youth events, as well as a series of APEC ministerial meetings. CYAP will culminate in the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Vancouver, November 24 to 25, when the Prime Minister will host economic leaders from Asia Pacific.

Over \$77 000 has been provided by the CYAP cultural program in support of CYAP projects in Manitoba. Funding for CYAP cultural projects was provided for in the February 1997 federal budget, and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

- 30 -

A list of CYAP projects in Manitoba is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Debora Brown Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (613) 995-1851

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

CYAP Regional Media Relations Co-ordinator Leigh Sigurdson (204) 284-2221

Visit the CYAP Web site at: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/~cyap-acap

For more information on CYAP cultural events, visit the CYAP Cultural Web site at: http://www.cyap.com

List of CYAP-funded projects in Manitoba

Jan - Dec	Leo Mol Sculpture Garden, Assiniboia Park, Winnipeg	Commissioning Leo Mol, a Winnipeg sculptor, to produce a bronze work to commemorate the contribution of the Chinese community in building the Canadian railway. Winnipeg Chinese Cultural & Community Centre. (204) 943-2627
Jan 11 - Dec 15	Winnipeg	"Showcase '97 Salutes Canada's Year of Asia Pacific." Music and folk dances, food festival and performing arts display. India School of Dance, Music & Theatre, Inc. (204) 233-0069
Feb 18 - Mar 26	Plug-In Gallery, Winnipeg	Exhibition of works by Ho Tam, acclaimed Chinese-Canadian artist. Plug-In Gallery. (204) 942-1043
Feb 20 - 28	Winnipeg, Saskatoon and Montreal	"Freeze Frame, international festival of films for kids of all ages." An exhibition of children's films from the Asia Pacific region. Freeze Frame. (204) 474-5931
Mar 24 - Apr 30	West End Cultural Centre, Winnipeg	Licanantay, People of the Highlands concert. Musical performance based on instruments and music collected from hill tribes in Asia. Licanantay Group. (204) 774-8479
Apr 1 - Jun 30	Winnipeg	A Southeast Asian cook book distributed free to schools, libraries, and government agencies in celebration of CYAP. Malayali Association of Manitoba, Inc. (204) 253-7865

Apr 4	University of Winnipeg, Winnipeg	Trichy Sankaran, master Indian percussionist joins Ensemble Mondetta chamber music group for a concert. Ensemble Mondetta. (204) 668-1421
		Creation of a TV program on Korean video art. Video Pool, Inc. (204) 949-9134
Apr 18 - 25	Casa Bueno Theatre Restaurant, Christian Church, Philippine Centre, Winnipeg	"The Book of Me." The Highlights Performing Group. (204) 284-0554
Apr 19 - Nov 17	Dugald	"The Rustle of Silk: from worm to wardrobe" visual/textile exhibition. Dugald Costume Museum. (204) 853-2166
Apr 24 - May 10	Winnipeg, Calgary and Edmonton	Khac Chi ensemble music performance tour. Highlights traditional, folk and classic music of Vietnam. Cross Current Music Inc. (514) 277-1563
May - Nov	Philippine Centre & Nayong Philipino, Philippine Pavilion, Winnipeg	"Artista- A Visual Arts Experience." Philippine Association of Manitoba. (204) 786-1232
May - Dec	Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary, Regina, Saskatoon, Yukon, etc.	"Cultures in Transition," a travelling film festival on contemporary and classic Southeast Asian cinema. IDERA (International Development Resource Association). (604) 738-8815
May - Dec	Prairie Fire Magazine, Vol 18, No. 4	"Asia Pacific Authors on the Prairies." A supplement to the Prairie Fire Magazine. Prairie Fire Press, Inc. (204) 943-9066
May 1 - Oct 31	Brandon, Swift Current, Lethbridge and Grand Prairie	"Prairie Asians," a reading tour. Absinthe Literary Society. (403) 691-5491

May 16 - 31	Winnipeg	"Remotely Inspired" craft exhibition- exchange, with local art being displayed in Hong Kong. Manitoba Crafts Council. (204) 947-0340
May 31 - Jun 15	Daniel McIntyre Collegiate, Winnipeg	20th Anniversary celebration. The Institute of Chinese language, Culture and Arts. (204) 661-8789
Jun 5 - 8	Forks National Historic Site, Winnipeg	15th Annual Winnipeg International Children's Festival. Included three Asian/Pacific groups as part of programming. (204) 958-4730
Jun 97 - Mar 98	St. Norbert Arts & Cultural Centre	"Kala Utsava: Celebrating 50 Years of India's Independence" An exhibition of contemporary Indian art. (204) 269-0564
Jul 1 - Sep 30	Winnipeg	"Fubuki Daiko Concert and Workshop," traditional Japanese drumming. Fubuki Daiko (204) 943-2989
Jul 9 - 13	Winnipeg	"A Taste of Manitoba" food festival. Manitoba Restaurant & Food Services Assoc. (204) 475-6660
Jul 15 - Sep 1	Plug-In Gallery, Winnipeg	"Memories of Overdevelopment" visual arts exhibition & catalogue. Plug-In Gallery. (204) 942-1043
Aug 2	Pantages Playhouse Theatre	Folklorama Opening Ceremonies. Folk Arts Council of Winnipeg, Inc. (204) 943-1956
Aug 3 - 9	Winnipeg	Winnipeg Folklorama 1997 - Chinese Pavilion at Folklorama. The Winnipeg Chinese Cultural and Community Centre. (204) 943-2627
Sep 29 - Nov 28	Tiger Hills Art Gallery, Holland	"The Art of Silk" exhibition. Presents the story and journey of silk; includes sculptural exhibit featuring silk fabric thread. Tiger Hills Art Association, Inc. (204) 526-2063

Sep 97 - Jun 98	Schools in Vancouver, Victoria, Kamloops, Kelowna, Edmonton, Calgary, Medicine Hat, Penticton, Osooyos, Grand Prairie, Peace River	"Pearl Rain, Deep Thunder," a touring of a theatre production based on Chinese mythology. Sun Ergos, A Company of Theatre and Dance. (403) 264-4621
Oct 7 - Nov 19	Westminster United Church	"A Musical Celebration of the Pacific Rim" concert series. Manitoba Chamber Orchestra. (204) 783-7377
Oct 20 - 22	Winnipeg	"Bafochi - Folkloric Ballet Chile," dance performance. Chile Community Centre of Winnipeg. (204) 982-6226
Oct 30 - Nov 1	Winnipeg	Special concert of prominent 20th century composer Toru Takemitsu with guest conductor Kazuhiro Koizumi. The Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. (204) 949-3950
Nov 1 - 7	Winnipeg	"Hinode Taiko 15th Anniversary Celebration." Musical group Hinode Taiko hosts a musical performance, workshops, video and educational sessions. Hinode Taiko. (204) 774-5909
Nov 14 - Nov 20	The Cinematheque, Winnipeg	Asian Heritage Film and Video Festival. Winnipeg Film Group, Cinematheque. (204) 942-6795

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October 20, 1997

No. 167

COLOMBIAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN TRADE MINISTERS VISITING CANADA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today announced that Colombian Foreign Affairs Minister Maria Emma Mejia and Foreign Trade Minister Carlos Ronderos are visiting Canada from October 20 to 22, 1997.

Ms. Mejia will meet with Mr. Axworthy on October 21 to discuss such issues as human rights, measures to control narcotrafficking, and reform of international institutions. "Canada appreciated Colombia's support for a ban on anti-personnel landmines through the Ottawa Process, " said Mr. Axworthy. "Colombia is playing an active role in regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest."

On October 21, Mr. Ronderos will meet with Mr. Marchi to discuss trade and investment issues, as well as the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) process, and preparations for the next Summit of the Americas, to be held in Santiago, Chile in April 1998. "Colombia is one of Canada's key Latin American partners and our third-largest trading partner in South America, " said Mr. Marchi. In 1996, bilateral trade with Colombia was valued at \$800 million, and total Canadian investment was \$3 billion.

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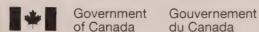
For further information, media representatives may contact:

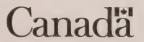
Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

Debora Brown Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (613) 995-1851

Leslie Swartman Office of the Minister for International Trade (613) 992-7332

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca









ANADIENNE DE

NEWS RELEASE

October 22, 1997

No. 168

Quebec Celebrates Canada's Year of Asia Pacific

The Honourable Martin Cauchon, Secretary of State, Federal Office of Regional Development for Quebec, announced today that Quebec has hosted 49 cultural projects and will showcase a number of exceptional works this fall to mark Canada's Year of Asia Pacific (CYAP). Mr. Cauchon made the announcement on behalf of the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Upcoming events were highlighted at the opening of Fashioning Textiles, an exhibition of innovative fashions created by young Asian and Canadian designers using traditional textiles. The exhibition is one of many national projects touring across Canada that feature artists and performers from Asia Pacific to celebrate Canada's Year of Asia Pacific. Many of these national projects are made possible through the contribution of governments from Asia Pacific countries.

A variety of regional CYAP projects involving Quebec's arts and cultural communities have also been ongoing throughout the year. These regional projects in Quebec have received over \$229 000 in funding through the CYAP cultural program of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

"This exceptional series of events to mark Canada's Year of Asia Pacific has enabled people in Quebec to witness first-hand the diverse cultures, practices and histories of countries in this region," said Mr. Cauchon. "I am delighted that these events are being so well received by Quebec audiences and that awareness of the importance of Asia Pacific is building."

Numerous CYAP projects are scheduled to take place in Montreal during the balance of the year, including:

- a performance of Indian dance by the renowned Chandralehka Dance Group on November 1 at the Usine C.,
- an exhibition of Asian television commercials on November 3 at the Cinéma le Faubourg, and
- an exhibit of Indian editorial cartoons, in celebration of 50 years of Indian independence, from November 12 to 17 at Concordia University.



"Canada's Year of Asia Pacific is helping to strengthen and expand our relationship with the Asia Pacific region by promoting increased business opportunities, youth involvement and cultural exchanges," said Mr. Axworthy. "The CYAP cultural program celebrates Canada's cultural ties to the region and recognizes the contribution of Canada's cultural sector to strengthening our relations in Asia Pacific. It is another example of the federal government's efforts to facilitate new links with this dynamic part of the world."

The Government of Canada has designated 1997 as Canada's Year of Asia Pacific in honour of Canada's role as this year's chair of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum. Hundreds of activities have been held across the country, including business and trade seminars at the local and national level, cultural and youth events, and a series of APEC ministerial meetings. CYAP will culminate in the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Vancouver, November 24 to 25, when the Prime Minister will host economic leaders from Asia Pacific.

Funding for CYAP cultural projects has been provided for in the federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

- 30 -

A listing of upcoming regional projects and national projects touring Quebec is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Debora Brown Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (613) 995-1851

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

Elisabeth Boileau Canada's Year of Asia Pacific (514)653-0712

Visit the CYAP Web site at: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/~cyap-acap

For more information on CYAP cultural events, visit the CYAP Cultural Web site at: http://www.cyap.com

This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

Canada's Year of Asia Pacific The Cultural Component

National Touring Projects in Quebec

May 6-12 Eyes on ASEAN

Photographic journey through the ASEAN group of countries

Chapelle historique du Bon-pasteur, Montreal

June 24 Chang Mu Dance Company

Modern dance company from the Republic of Korea

Museum of Civilization, Hull

June 2-11 The North

One-person theatre show from Australia

Montreal, Carrefour, Rimouski

July 25-31 Asian Visions

Asian film festival Cinéma du Parc

October 21- Fashioning Textiles

November 8 An exhibition of fashions by young Asian and Canadian designers

using traditional textiles Marché Bonsecours, Montreal

November 1 Chandralekha Dance Group

Indian dance company Usine C., Montreal

November 3 Asian Television Commercials

Festival of Asian television commercials

Cinéma le Faubourg, Montreal

November 12-17 Indian Editorial Cartoons

Fifty years of Indian independence seen through cartoonists' eyes

Concordia University, Montreal

November 27-28 H Art Chaos

All-female Japanese dance company

Agora de la Danse, Montreal

December Masterpieces of Chinese 20th Century Painting

Visual arts exhibition

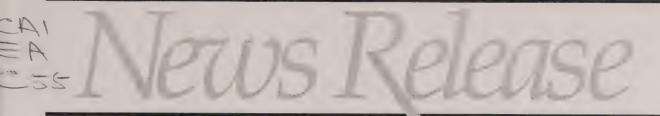
The Museum of Civilization, Hull



CYAP Calendar of Upcoming Events

October 20- November 8	Montreal	Fashioning Textiles (a new look at traditional textiles and clothing) Organized by: Carol Outram, (514) 934-5040 Marché Bonsecour, (514) 872-7730
October	Montreal	Japanese publications, visual arts Organized by: Parachute, revue d'art contemporain, (514) 842-980
November 1-15	Montreal	50th Anniversary Film Festival of Indian and Pakistani Cinema 1947-1997 Organized by: Bahrat Bahvan Foundation, (514) 483-5416
To be confirmed	Montreal	Year Zero (theatre) Organized by: The Other Theatre, (514) 483-5416
November 6- December 21	Montreal	Shirakawa Yoshio (visual arts) Organized by: Centre international d'art contemporain, (514) 288-0811
November 8	Montreal	Kababaihang Filipina (theatre) Organized by: Filipino Women's Organization of Quebec, (514) 691-7130
November 7-9	Montreal	Maita (youth theatre) Organized by: Théâtre de la Vieille 17, (613) 241-8562
November 10-24	Montreal	Data: Jumping and living (multimedia) Organized by: Vidéographe, (514) 866-4720
November 10- December 7	Montreal	Body Evidence (performances and theatre) Organized by: Teesri Dunya Theatre, (514) 848-0238
November 20-21	Montreal	Asie Art (vidéo) Organized by: Groupe Intervention Vidéo, (514) 271-5506
Fall (TBC)	Montreal	Héritage asiatique (video documentary) Organized by: Les Deux Mondes, (514) 593-4417

Fall (TBC)	Montreal	"La Ville où fleurissent les images" (Japanese literature and cinema) Organized by: Éditions 400 coups, (514) 622-8028
Fall	Montreal	The Asian Canadian Postcard Project (visual arts) Organized by: Nikkei Artists Network, (514) 270-8181
Release in 1998	Montreal	Small Change (film) Organized by: Morag Productions, (514) 933-1292
Postponed until 1998	Charlevoix	Concert by Mary Finsterer, Australian composer Organized by: Nouvel Ensemble Moderne, (514) 343-5962



October 22, 1997

No. 169

AXWORTHY TO ATTEND COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy will accompany Prime Minister Chrétien to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) from October 24 to 27 in Edinburgh, United Kingdom.

"The CHOGM provides an excellent opportunity for Canada to cultivate our relations with the other member nations and reaffirm Canada's commitment to the Commonwealth's Harare Declaration on human rights and democracy," said Minister Axworthy.

On October 23, before the CHOGM, the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) will meet in Edinburgh. Created in 1995, the CMAG's mandate is to recommend collective Commonwealth responses to serious or persistent violations of the principles contained in the Commonwealth's Harare Declaration on human rights and democracy. Mr. Axworthy and other Foreign Ministers will discuss final plans regarding the group's recommendations to the Commonwealth Heads of Government in regard to the evolution of democratic principles and human rights in Nigeria, Sierra Leone and the Gambia.

In addition to his participation at the CMAG, Mr. Axworthy will also participate in a panel discussion on landmines, sponsored by the U.K. Working Group on Landmines at the Non-governmental Organization Forum on October 25. Nearly 100 organizations will be represented at the NGO Forum, which takes place in Edinburgh in parallel with the Heads of Government Meeting.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Debora Brown Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (613) 995-1851

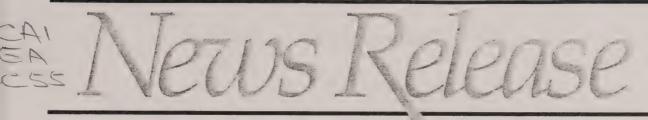
Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca









October 22, 1997

No. 170

AXWORTHY RENEWS OFFER TO ASSIST THE QUEBEC GOVERNMENT IN CONCLUDING A LEGAL CO-OPERATION ARRANGEMENT WITH FRANCE

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today expressed his wish for early resumption of consultations with the Government of Quebec on a proposed arrangement for legal co-operation in civil matters between the Government of Quebec and France in order to allow Quebecers to enjoy the benefits of this arrangement. To be valid in France, this arrangement must be consistent with, and fall under, the 1996 Canada-France Convention on Legal Co-operation in Civil Matters.

"We are eager to assist the Quebec government in establishing a valid arrangement with France," said Minister Axworthy. "It is in the interest of Quebecers that consultations resume in earnest between the federal and Quebec governments to resolve outstanding problems with respect to the substance of the arrangement."

The Canada-France Convention is an "umbrella" instrument that enables provinces to enter into arrangements with France on matters within provincial or territorial jurisdiction.

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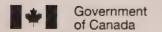
A detailed background document is attached.

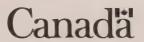
For further information, media representatives may contact:

Debora Brown
Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs
(613) 995-1851

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

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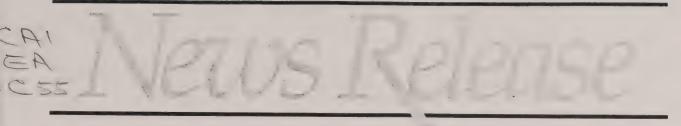


Backgrounder

- In 1977 the Government of Quebec concluded an arrangement with France on a similar matter. That arrangement does not have the force of law in France precisely because it is not under the umbrella of a Convention between Canada and France. The effect of that arrangement is that Quebecers remain disadvantaged, especially with respect to maintenance, while providing a benefit to French nationals pursuant to Quebec legislation.
- The Government of Canada recognized that there was a very real need for Canada and France to allow the citizens of both countries wider access to each other's courts in order to enforce judgments, rendered in their home jurisdiction, in civil and commercial matters as well as in matters related to maintenance and the custody of and access to children. To that end, a Canada-France Convention was signed in June 1996.
- The Convention is designed as an "umbrella" instrument by virtue of which any of the provinces or territories could enter into arrangements with France concerning any matter dealt with in the Convention that is within provincial or territorial jurisdiction and to the extent that such arrangements are not inconsistent with the provisions of the Convention.
- In preparing for the negotiations with France, the Government of Canada consulted extensively with the provinces and territories, as the matters forming the subject of the Convention are predominantly within their jurisdiction. The Government of Quebec consistently refused to participate in the discussions but was, nevertheless, provided with updates on the negotiations with the French and copies of the texts as they developed.
- The Government of Canada was asked by France for its views on the proposed Quebec/France arrangement on judicial cooperation and its approval of the text before its signature. The Government of Canada shared its views with the Government of Quebec despite the fact that the Government of Quebec ignored federal requests for a copy of the text that it had negotiated with France. It should be noted that the Government of Quebec has consistently refused to submit drafts of arrangements with foreign countries to the Government of Canada for review prior to signing.
- While the Government of Canada has indicated to Quebec its concern with respect to the form of the text, among other things the lack of reference to the "umbrella" Convention and the reference to the resolution of disputes being

"settled through diplomatic channels" — which exist only between sovereign states — the substantive content remains the primary focus of attention.

- The proposed Quebec/France arrangement would not by itself be valid in France without the benefit of the Convention. Consistency with the Convention would ensure the effective implementation of the arrangement in France. In addition, Canada has the obligation to notify France regarding which provinces and territories the Convention applies to. This is specifically provided for in the Convention, and thus Canada would have to inform France of the application of the Convention to Quebec.
- There are conflicts between the intended scope of application of the arrangement and that of the Convention. The arrangement does not permit the retroactive application of decisions related to the custody of children and maintenance matters, contrary to the provisions of the Convention. One of the conditions under the Convention is that for any arrangement to be valid, it must be consistent with the Convention. Clearly this is not the case.
- On the matter of earlier arrangements being regarded as precedents, such as the Social Security arrangement and the Double Taxation arrangement, it should be understood that they only have effect because they fall under the umbrella of a Canada-France agreement.
- Attempts by the Government of Canada to address the legal problems with the Government of Quebec prior to Premier Bouchard's visit to France failed. The invitation remains for the Government of Quebec to discuss acceptable amendments to the text to allow for its early signature.



October 23, 1997

No. 171

MINISTER SHEILA COPPS LEADS THE CANADIAN DELEGATION AT THE 29TH UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE AND AT MEETINGS WITH CULTURE MINISTERS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that Minister of Canadian Heritage Sheila Copps is leading the Canadian delegation at the 29th General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris, and holding bilateral meetings with representatives of foreign countries from October 22 to 25. The Conference will develop the programs and activities of the organization for the next two years.

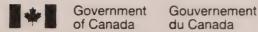
"Canada is a very active member of UNESCO," said Mr. Axworthy.
"We are seeking a seat on the Executive Board to promote reform within UNESCO and to share the knowledge and experience that we have gained through participation in many aspects of the organization's work."

The General Conference will elect a portion of its Executive Board and adopt the program and budget for the 1998-99 period.

"The member states must take responsibility and develop partnerships to support UNESCO in its move to promote its mandate," said Minister Copps. "This would allow UNESCO to enhance the cultural aspect in international discussions, including those related to economic globalization."

Nova Scotia Education Minister Robert Harrison will speak on behalf of Canadian education authorities at the Education Commission. Two young Canadians will join the delegation, assisting with preparations for the three round-table special debates devoted to the subject of youth during the General Conference.

During her visit, Minister Copps is meeting with Federico Mayor, Director General of UNESCO, to discuss the role of UNESCO on the eve of the 21st century in the fields of culture, education and human rights. Among other ministers, she is meeting the United



Gouvernement du Canada Canada

Kingdom's Secretary of State for International Development, Clare Short, and the French Minister of Culture and Communication, Catherine Trautmann, to exchange views on the status of culture on the international scene.

Minister Copps will also meet with the Secretary General of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, Don Johnston, to discuss the promotion of content diversity in a global communication environment.

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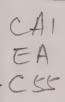
For further information, media representatives may contact:

Debora Brown Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (613) 995-1851

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

Len Westerberg Media Relations Office Canadian Heritage (819) 994-5589

This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca



October 28, 1997

No. 172

AXWORTHY ANNOUNCES INDONESIA-CANADA HUMAN RIGHTS COLLOQUIUM

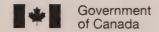
Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that Canada and Indonesia will hold a bilateral human rights colloquium in Jakarta, Indonesia, October 29 to 30. This meeting, entitled, "Indonesia-Canada Human Rights Colloquium: Perspectives and Approaches," is the first event to be held as part of the Bilateral Consultative Forum established last July by Minister Axworthy and Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister Ali Alatas.

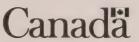
"When I visited Indonesia in July, I raised a range of human rights issues with Foreign Minister Alatas," said Mr. Axworthy.
"I also met with non-governmental organizations and human rights activists. As a result of my conversations, I believe Canada and Indonesia share the common ground to engage on issues of importance to both countries. This colloquium is an important step in the promotion of human rights and the building of good governance and democratic institutions. I wish the participants a successful meeting, and look forward to hearing of the results."

Canada and Indonesia consider the Colloquium to be an important means to broaden relations and enhance mutual confidence and understanding. The agenda for the Colloquium will include discussion on the international human rights framework; national approaches to human rights implementation; international technical co-operation; and planning for a future agenda.

Delegations will include officials from the Canadian and Indonesian Ministries of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and other relevant government departments and institutions, including officials from the Canadian International Development Agency, which is also providing financial support for the Colloquium. Other delegates will include representatives of the Indonesian and Canadian National Human Rights Commissions, as well as representatives from the academic, non-governmental, media and business communities in both countries.

In addition, officials responsible for human rights from MFAs in various Association of Southeast Asian Nations countries have





been invited to participate as observers, along with selected representatives from the diplomatic corps in Jakarta.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

October 28, 1997

No. 173

NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL AMBASSADORS VISIT CANADA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and National Defence Minister Art Eggleton today announced that the North Atlantic Council Ambassadors will visit Ottawa October 28 to 29.

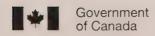
The Council Ambassadors, led by Javier Solana, Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), will be briefed on Canada's foreign and defence policy priorities. Minister Axworthy and Minister Eggleton will meet with Secretary-General Solana during the visit.

"Canada has been a member of NATO since the organization was founded in 1949. Since then, Canada has been among the strongly supportive parties, playing an active, creative and constructive role in the Alliance," said Minister Axworthy. "Canada is putting its resources toward top priorities. Canada remains a committed player in the NATO Alliance, which forms one of the basic pillars of Canada's security structure."

"Today, as ever, we remain committed to the NATO Alliance, as demonstrated by our significant contribution to NATO's mission in Bosnia," said Minister Eggleton. "NATO remains an effective instrument for ensuring peace and stability in Europe and North America; it is living proof that individual nations can work together toward a common goal. It is for these reasons that the Canadian Forces' participation in NATO operations will continue to remain strong as the Alliance approaches its 50th year of existence."

The Council Ambassadors will have an extensive series of discussions on Canada's role in NATO and on the Canadian political and economic environment. The North Atlantic Council visit to Canada will provide an opportunity to explain Canada's approaches to a number of key issues facing the Alliance, including the enlargement process, relations with Russia and internal NATO reform.

This visit will give the Council the opportunity to obtain a clearer understanding of Canadian parliamentarians'







preoccupations, and will underline how Canadians regard Canada's role in Europe and, in particular, in NATO.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

Nicole Bourget Director of Communications Office of the Minister of National Defence (613) 996-3100

Media Liaison Office Office of the Minister of National Defence (613) 996-2353

This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca



October 29, 1997

No. 174

FOREIGN MINISTER OF URUGUAY VISITS CANADA OCTOBER 29 TO 31

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Minister for International Trade Sergio Marchi announced today that Foreign Minister Alvaro Ramos of Uruguay is visiting Canada from October 29 to 31.

Minister Ramos's trip will focus on strengthening bilateral relations and on renewing an agreement designed to help increase exports and investment between Canada and Uruguay. Mr. Ramos will meet both Ministers Axworthy and Marchi today.

"Canada and Uruguay have close, productive relations," said Mr. Axworthy. "I look forward to renewing those relations, and will also discuss a variety of regional and multilateral issues with Minister Ramos, including peacekeeping and United Nations reform."

"Uruguay is the current chair of South America's predominant trade grouping, Mercosur, which is a priority area for further trade and investment development," said Mr. Marchi. "The renewed Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPA) that we will sign demonstrates our strong desire to forge closer economic links with Uruguay and its Mercosur partners."

Canada and Uruguay signed a FIPA in 1991. Canada's new FIPA with Uruguay builds in new obligations that make it more compatible with Canada's obligations under the North American Free Trade Agreement and the World Trade Organization.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

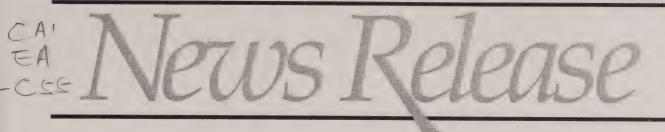
Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca



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October 29, 1997

No. 175

DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENT

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy announces the appointment of Stanley E. Gooch as Ambassador to the United Mexican States.

Biographical Note

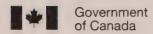
Stanley E. Gooch (BA, University of Alberta, 1964; MA, University of Alberta, 1966) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1966. He served abroad in Buenos Aires, Belgrade, Vienna and from 1986 to 1989 served as Ambassador to Costa Rica with concurrent accreditation to the Republics of El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras and Panama. In Ottawa, Mr. Gooch held a number of positions, including Director, United States Transboundary Division and Director General, Latin America and Caribbean Bureau. From 1991 to 1994, he was Assistant Deputy Minister, Latin America and Caribbean Branch. Since 1994, Mr. Gooch has served as High Commissioner to India. He is married to Nancy Gooch and they have two sons. He succeeds Marc Perron.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874









October 31, 1997

No. 176

AXWORTHY WELCOMES U.S. DE-MINING INITIATIVE

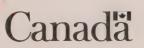
Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today welcomed the joint announcement by United States Secretary of State Albright and Secretary of Defense Cohen that the United States would be participating as observers at the signing conference for the treaty banning anti-personnel landmines in Ottawa from December 2 to 4.

"We welcome all countries, participants and observers, and we are particularly pleased that the United States will be represented at the conference. Today's announcement builds further momentum as we approach the December conference," said Mr. Axworthy.

The Minister also welcomed the Secretaries' announcement of new initiatives in the U.S. contribution to international humanitarian de-mining, including its financial contribution of close to US\$80 million for 1998 and the appointment of Mr. Karl F. Inderfurth as Special Representative of the President and the Secretary of State for Global De-Mining.

"This significant new initiative confirms that the United States takes the international humanitarian landmine crisis very seriously," added Mr. Axworthy. "We look forward to the United States joining us in the coming months and years as Ottawa Process II leads to an increased global response to humanitarian de-mining and landmine victim assistance."

In addition, the Secretaries indicated that the U.S. Administration intends to launch a process, including both the public and private sector, to raise \$1 billion to eradicate "implaced mines that threaten civilian populations" by the year 2010. To this end, Mr. Inderfurth will organize a series of preparatory meetings leading to a "major global humanitarian conference" in 1998.



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Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

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November 3, 1997

No. 177

VISIT TO CANADA BY DR. KLAUS KINKEL, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr. Klaus Kinkel, will visit Canada on November 4.

The agenda for the meeting by the two Ministers provides for discussions on a number of topics of common interest, including progress on banning and eliminating anti-personnel mines, and improving Canadian-German relations.

Dr. Kinkel will preside at the opening ceremonies of the Canadian Centre for German and European Studies, a partnership between the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the University of Montréal and York University. DAAD will contribute \$4 million over 10 years to cover operating costs; that contribution and time frame will be matched by the two universities combined.

"This Centre is a model of co-operation among institutions, and is a major asset for the City of Montréal and for all of Canada," said Mr. Axworthy. "This partnership between the University of Montréal and York University will help to raise Canada's international profile."

The Centre's mandate will be to promote research and teaching to improve knowledge and understanding of German and European cultures in Canada.

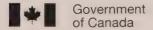
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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Debora Brown Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (613) 995-1851

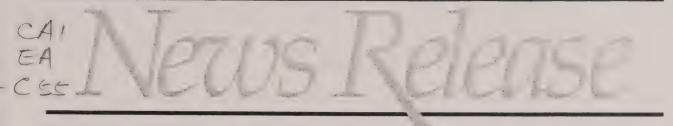
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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca



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November 3, 1997

No. 178

AXWORTHY TO VISIT MIDDLE EAST

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy will visit the Middle East from November 9 to 16, 1997. Mr. Axworthy will meet with leaders in Egypt, Israel, Jordan, the West Bank and Gaza, Lebanon and Syria. He will then lead a 15-member Canadian business delegation to the fourth Middle East/North Africa Economic Conference in Doha, Qatar.

"The Convention to Ban Anti-Personnel Mines and the direction of the Middle East Peace Process will be at the top of the agenda during my visit," said Mr. Axworthy. "I will seek the support of countries in the region to join the global coalition on the landmines issue. In the context of the Peace Process, Canada is engaged in the search for a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region, which includes resolving the Palestinian refugee question. We are encouraged by the recent resumption of direct dialogue between Israel and the Palestinian Authority."

While in Israel, Mr. Axworthy will pursue clarification on the steps taken to ensure Canadian passports will not be misused again.

Mr. Axworthy will join government and industry leaders from the Middle East, North Africa and countries worldwide in Doha to assess the changing business environment and potential opportunities in the region. Canadian companies and organizations participating in the conference will highlight Canadian capabilities in a broad range of sectors.

On November 17, the Minister will travel to Ankara, Turkey. There he will meet with leaders to encourage their participation in the landmine conference in Ottawa in December.



An itinerary is attached for information.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Debora Brown Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (613) 995-1851

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

Media accreditation for the Doha Conference must be obtained through the Media Office, World Economic Forum, Geneva, contact: Andrea Maurer, tel.: 011-41-22-869-1212; fax: 011-41-22-786-2744.

For more information on the Doha Conference via the Internet, please contact: http://www.weforum.org/enhanced/regional/mn97/mn_toc.htm

Visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Middle East and Turkey

Sunday, November 9 - Cairo, Egypt

Monday, November 10 - Cairo, Egypt

Tuesday, November 11 - Israel

Wednesday, November 12 - Amman, Jordan

Thursday, November 13 - West Bank/Gaza

Friday, November 14 - Beirut, Lebanon

Saturday, November 15 - Damascus, Syria

Sunday, November 16 - Doha, Qatar 11:30 Opening of the Conference, Doha Conference Centre

Monday, November 17 - Ankara, Turkey

Note: This itinerary as of November 3, 1997, may be subject to change. For updates on the itinerary, contact:

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874



CAI EA NEUS Release

November 5, 1997

No. 179

SECRETARY OF STATE KILGOUR TO VISIT COLOMBIA, PERU

Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) David Kilgour will visit Peru and Colombia from November 6 to 13 to discuss a range of economic, political and development issues.

"I look forward to broadening Canada's political and business links with both Colombia and Peru," said Mr. Kilgour. "In the months leading up to the next Summit of the Americas, it is also important to discuss some common approaches to development and social issues."

In Peru, November 6-11, Mr. Kilgour will attend a meeting of the Canada-Peru Business Council and meet with political and business figures to discuss trade, investment, human rights and development issues.

He will also tour several development projects, including a technical school and a centre that focusses on women's economic development, to get a first-hand experience of how Canadian aid is helping to build local economies.

In Colombia, November 11-13, Mr. Kilgour will meet with business and government leaders, including the mines and industry ministers, and the attorney general.

Issues expected to be discussed include: Canadian trade and investment, including work on a Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPA); ongoing progress on the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA); democratic development and human rights; and the April 1998 Summit of the Americas in Chile.

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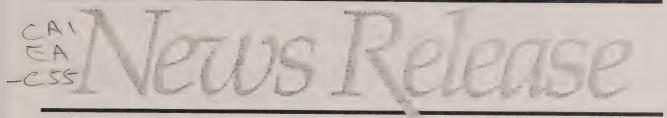
For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

Sara Mohsin Office of the Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) (613) 992-9404







November 6, 1997

No. 180

MARCHI TO LEAD BUSINESSWOMEN'S TRADE MISSION AND HOLD BILATERAL TALKS IN WASHINGTON-NEW YORK TRIP

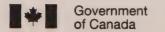
International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi will lead a ground-breaking trade mission of around 120 businesswomen to Washington from November 12 to 14 in an effort to increase the number of firms led by women exporting to the lucrative U.S. market.

"There is great potential for increasing Canadian exports among firms headed by women," said Mr. Marchi. "Women head about one-third of Canadian companies, employing about 1.7 million people and creating jobs at a rate of four times the national average. This is a key sector we are targeting in our effort to double the number of exporters by the year 2000."

The three-day Canadian Businesswomen's International Trade Mission is designed to introduce potential exporters to the U.S. market and, specifically, to explore business opportunities and form partnerships in the mid-Atlantic states of Maryland, Virginia, eastern Pennsylvania, Delaware and the District of Columbia. Canadian exports there amounted to \$11.5 billion in 1996. The mission is a project of the Canadian Women's International Business Initiative, set up by the Canadian Embassy in Washington.

The mission program will enable Canadian participants to pursue business opportunities with U.S. firms through mentoring, networking and partnering activities. A series of export development workshops on topics ranging from export strategies to marketing and international business financing will allow participants to improve their understanding of topics that interest them most. On the final day, each businesswoman will follow an individual schedule of meetings, set up by the Embassy, with prospective U.S. clients and partners to explore sales opportunities.

The mission has strong private sector as well as government support. The Royal Bank of Canada is the presenting sponsor. Other sponsors include the Business Development Bank of Canada; the Certified General Accountants' Association of Canada; Export Development Corporation; GM Canada; the law firm of Hodgson,





Russ, Andrews Woods & Goodyear; IBM Canada Ltd.; Industry Canada; and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

While in Washington, Mr. Marchi will also review multilateral and bilateral trade issues with U.S. Commerce Secretary William Daley and U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky. As well, he will meet Aida Alvarez, head of the U.S. Small Business Administration, to discuss matters related to the businesswomen's mission.

He will speak on trade policy issues to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington on November 13 and to a meeting of the Council of the Americas and the Americas Society in New York on November 14.

- 30 -

A backgrounder is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Leslie Swartman
Office of the Minister for International Trade
(613) 992-7332

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

Backgrounder

CANADIAN BUSINESSWOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE MISSION WASHINGTON, D.C., NOVEMBER 12-14,

The Minister for International Trade, the Honourable Sergio Marchi, will be leading the first Businesswomen's Trade Mission, to Washington, D.C. from November 12 to 14, 1997. The Royal Bank of Canada is the presenting sponsor.

The Canadian Women's International Business Initiative (CWIBI) is a business development program of the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C., designed to assist export-ready Canadian women entrepreneurs in developing business opportunities for their products and services in the mid-Atlantic states — Maryland, Virginia, eastern Pennsylvania, Delaware and the District of Columbia — a market worth \$11.5 billion.

This region includes representation from three-quarters of the world's multinational corporations; it has the second-largest concentration of high-tech firms outside "Silicon Valley," and the U.S. government in Washington is a significant market for Canadian goods and services.

The mission is designed to balance the fact that businesswomen are under-represented within the community of Canadian exporters, despite their presence and influence in the Canadian economy. Thirty per cent of all Canadian firms are owned or operated by women; 700 000 women-led businesses in Canada provide 1.7 million jobs and are generating jobs at four times the average rate.

Projections are that there will be 680 000 self-employed women by the year 2000. In fact, self-employed women had the fastest rate of growth (172 per cent) of all employment sectors from 1975 to 1990.

The Businesswomen's Trade Mission is a major project undertaken under CWIBI to help reach the government's goal of doubling the number of active exporters in Canada by the year 2000.

- The three-day mission will feature market information sessions, networking events and matchmaking meetings aimed at forging bilateral links with U.S. firms.
- Representatives of women-led businesses in the U.S. mid-Atlantic will join mission participants at a special luncheon to be addressed by U.S. Secretary of Commerce William M. (Bill) Daley and by Minister Marchi.
- Minister Marchi will lead a round table on "breaking down the barriers" with Canadian businesswomen to determine how

government can best support women-owned or -led businesses in entering the international business marketplace.

- Personal success stories told by Canadian women entrepreneurs and keynote addresses by influential Canadian and U.S. business people will reinforce the dynamic role women are playing in the new economy.
- Workshops will highlight opportunities in consumer products and services, professional services, environmental technologies, agri-food, seafood and government markets, where participants will learn about international market research, export strategy development, financing and export counselling services in Canada, marketing and business culture in the United States and partnering for market entry.

Several hundred meetings are being arranged between the Canadian businesswomen and U.S. companies.

The mission will be held at the Westin Hotel in Washington; registration is US\$300; airfare and hotel accommodations are the responsibility of each participant.

The presenting sponsor of the mission, the Royal Bank of Canada, is supporting the mission as a complement to the Bank's Small Business Initiatives program, which invests in and assists women entrepreneurs through training seminars offered in six locations across Canada, and through the creation of an Entrepreneurial Advisory Council to advise the Royal Bank on programs and direction in the women's market.

In announcing the trade mission in a speech on September 16 to the 1997 Meeting of the APEC Women Leaders' Network, Minister Marchi said: "We simply must do a better job of providing women entrepreneurs with the tools they need for export success. . . it is my hope that this three-day mission will not only assist women in reaching their export objectives, but will also heighten awareness of their importance to the Canadian economy."

The mission is actively supported by the Canadian business community. The Royal Bank of Canada is the presenting sponsor, joined by the Business Development Bank of Canada; the Certified General Accountants' Association of Canada; Export Development Corporation; GM Canada; the law firm of Hodgson, Russ, Andrews Woods & Goodyear; IBM Canada Ltd.; Industry Canada; and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.



November 6, 1997

No. 181

CANADA ANNOUNCES INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced the establishment of a \$1.75 million fund for Canadian scholarships to students from the Caribbean. This pilot program will be administered over a five-year period by the Vancouver-based Commonwealth of Learning, which is the only Commonwealth intergovernmental organization located outside the United Kingdom.

Students awarded these scholarships will be studying "at a distance" using specifically designed materials and taking advantage of modern communications technologies. This program is an expansion of the current Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan, which has until now sent students from developing countries to live in Canada to earn their degrees.

"This program provides the Commonwealth of Learning an innovative vehicle to promote technology-based distance education, which Canada excels in," said Mr. Axworthy. "Those students who are not able to leave their home countries, will still be given the chance to study and earn their degrees at Canadian universities."

These awards will be offered in 1998. Scholarships will be available in the fields of teacher education, information technology and hospitality management.

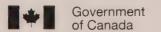
Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 1997 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

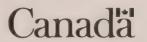
- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Debora Brown Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (613) 995-1851

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874







November 7, 1997

No. 182

DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced the following diplomatic appointments:

Marc Lemieux becomes Roving Ambassador for Central Africa.

Duane Van Beselaere becomes High Commissioner to Barbados, with concurrent accreditation to Antigua and Barbuda, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Peter F. Walker becomes High Commissioner to the Republic of India, with concurrent accreditation to the Kingdom of Nepal as Ambassador.

- 30 -

Biographical notes on the appointees are attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Debora Brown
Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs
(613) 995-1851

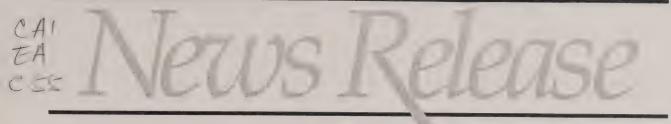
Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

Biographical Notes

Marc Lemieux, (BA, Laval University, 1963; MA, Laval University, 1967) joined the Trade Commissioner Service in 1967. He served abroad in Hong Kong and Dallas, and as Consul General in Rio de Janeiro, Ambassador to Ethiopia, Consul General in Detroit and Ambassador to Algeria. Since 1995, Mr. Lemieux has been High Commissioner to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. In Ottawa, he held positions in a number of divisions, including Personnel and the Food Products Division in Industry, Trade and Commerce, as well as South and Southeast Asia Trade Development Division in the Department of External Affairs. From 1993 to 1995, he was the interim Regional Executive Director, Quebec Region, on secondment with Industry Canada. He is married to Lise Bergeron-Lemieux, and they have two children. Mr. Lemieux succeeds Marius Bujold.

Duane Van Beselaere, (BComm. [Economics], University of Saskatchewan, 1966) joined the Trade Commissioner Service in 1966. He served abroad in Sydney, Hamburg, Lagos, Washington and Bonn, where he was Minister-Counsellor (Economic/Commercial) from 1988 to 1992. In Ottawa, he served as Director, Services and General Trade Policy Division from 1983 to 1988 and as Advisor, Multilateral Trade Negotiations Branch from 1992 to 1993. In 1993 he was appointed as Associate Chief Air Negotiator, where he was responsible for international air transport negotiations, and since 1994 has been Chief Air Negotiator. Mr. Van Beselaere is married to Dagmar Van Beselaere, and they have two children. He succeeds Colleen Swords.

Peter F. Walker (BA Honours [Economics and Political Science], Queen's University, 1964) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1964. He served abroad in Jakarta, Moscow, and in Paris as Minister-Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. Since 1993 he has been Ambassador to the Republic of Austria, with concurrent accreditation as Permanent Representative to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, to the International Atomic Energy Agency, and to the United Nations in Vienna. In Ottawa, from 1985 to 1988, Mr. Walker served successively as Director General, U.S.S.R. and Eastern Europe Bureau and Director General, Western Europe Bureau. From 1988 to 1992, he was Assistant Deputy Minister, Personnel Branch. Mr. Walker is married to Janet Burns-Walker, and he has two children. He succeeds Stanley Gooch.



November 7, 1997

No. 183

CANADA GAINS SEAT ON UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Canadian Heritage Minister Sheila Copps today welcomed Canada's election to the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) at the 29th General Conference in Paris.

"Canada submitted its candidacy for a seat on the Executive Board to promote UNESCO reform and modernization," said Mr. Axworthy. "Canada's election to the Executive Board will allow us to pursue those objectives in consultation with Canadian organizations involved in education, science and culture."

"I believe Canada's election to the Executive Board will enable us to support the mission and work of UNESCO as we prepare for the new realities that are emerging as we approach the dawn of the 21st century," said Ms. Copps. "Only by working together and creating strategic alliances can we begin to find solutions to the issues common to all."

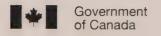
On November 4, member-states filled 26 of the 58 seats on the UNESCO Executive Board, which examines implementation of programs adopted by the General Conference, the supreme decision-making body. The newly elected members will join 32 other states elected to the Board at the 28th Session in 1995. Executive Board members serve for four years and meet twice a year.

The Executive Board members will have to choose a successor to the Director-General, whose final term expires at the 1999 General Conference. Canada last sat on the Executive Board from 1989 to 1993.

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Len Westerberg Media Relations Office Canadian Heritage (819) 994-5589

This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

November 12, 1997

No. 184

MINISTERS ANNOUNCE LAUNCH OF **NEW INFORMATION TOOL FOR EXPORTERS**

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi and Industry Minister John Manley announced today the launch of a new on-line information product, Take a World View ... Export Your Services, to assist Canadian service firms in preparing to export to foreign markets.

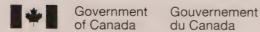
Take a World View ... Export Your Services can be found on the Industry Canada website at http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/twv and on the InfoExport website of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade at http://www.infoexport.gc.ca. It is a joint effort between the private sector, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and Industry Canada, and is one of several initiatives of Team Canada Inc., formed specifically to promote the trade of Canadian products and services in the international marketplace. It is aimed at small and medium-sized firms in the knowledge-based service industries, including management consultants, architects, engineers, professional trainers and designers.

Mr. Marchi launched the new electronic export guide in Washington during the Canadian Businesswomen's International Trade Mission, which he is leading.

"This product will make it easier - and faster - for Canadian service companies to get the information they need as they look for a competitive edge in international markets," said Mr. Marchi.

"This is the kind of strategic business information product that will make a positive contribution to our export preparedness," said Mr. Manley in Ottawa.

A Team Canada Inc. objective is to ensure that information products developed by all government departments respond to the specific needs of exporters. Take a World View ... Export Your Services is specifically intended for exporters of services, to



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meet their demand for export-related information. It is also featured prominently in the Export Guides section of ExportSource, Team Canada Inc.'s on-line resource for export information.

Take a World View ... Export Your Services is the most comprehensive information tool for exporters of services. The service sector accounted for nearly three quarters of Canada's GDP in 1996 and is expected to be the primary source of new exporters in the future.

The electronic guide can be used by business and professional service firms who are potential or existing exporters, as well as by goods exporters who wish to export services to complement their product offerings. In addition, it could be used by organizations that provide export information such as industry associations, International Trade Centres, Business Service Centres, federal and provincial government departments, economic and regional development agencies, and educational institutions that offer international business training.

Previously available in disk format, the new Take a World View ... Export Your Services Internet version is significantly enhanced. It will also be available soon on CD-ROM.

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November 13, 1997

No. 185

CANADA ASSISTS PALESTINIAN REFUGEES

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that Canada will contribute \$1 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to rebuild shelters for Palestinian refugees. The Minister made the announcement while in Gaza as part of his visit to the Middle East from November 9 to 16.

"This contribution reflects our special concern for Palestinian refugees," said Mr. Axworthy, who noted that Canada is chair of the Refugee Working Group of the Middle East Peace Process.
"Until there is a negotiated, just solution to the refugee problem, we want to improve their living conditions and thereby create new employment opportunities."

Palestinians have faced severe economic hardship in recent years as a result of falling incomes in the West Bank and Gaza and reduced job opportunities since the Gulf War. Canada will make this special contribution to UNRWA, the multilateral agency established in 1949 to provide assistance to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the West Bank and Gaza. This contribution is a response to an appeal by UNRWA to the international community for funding of a program to build and repair shelters for poor families. Local refugee labour will be hired for construction work in UNRWA refugee camps.

"Overcrowding and unhealthy conditions in the refugee camps are a grave problem. It is the duty of the international community to address this situation," said the Honourable Diane Marleau, Minister for International Co-operation and Minister Responsible for la Francophonie.

Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 1997 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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November 13, 1997

No. 186

CANADA TO SIGN CONVENTION AGAINST THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURING OF AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that Canada will sign this week the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials. The Canadian delegation will be led by the Hon. Herb Gray, Deputy Prime Minister, at an Organization of American States (OAS) Special General Assembly in Washington on November 14.

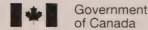
"This convention addresses long-standing Canadian concerns about the free flow of illicit firearms, ammunition and explosives in this hemisphere," said Mr.Gray. "Curbing illicit trafficking will help in the battle against crime, drug trafficking and terrorism. All nations in the hemisphere will benefit from measures to dry up the excess in arms."

"Significant efforts were taken by Canada and its OAS partners to develop appropriate mechanisms to address the illicit trafficking between countries," said Mr. Axworthy. "All too often it is small arms, rather than the weapons systems targeted by disarmament efforts, that cause the greatest bloodshed today where innocent people become victims. In the hands of terrorists, criminals and the irregular militia and armed bands typical of internal conflict, these are true weapons of mass terror."

"The Convention will greatly assist Canadian law enforcement in the fight against violent crime," said Andy Scott, Solicitor General.

Foreign Affairs is working in close consultation with the Department of Justice, Solicitor General Canada and Revenue Canada.

The Convention is strongly welcomed by Latin American and Caribbean countries, some of which are suffering from an excessive availability of weapons within their borders. A



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multilateral approach would be essential in the fight against narco-trafficking and violent crime, all significant problems that impede economic and social progress in the Americas.

Other signatories of the Convention include the United States, Mexico and most of the other states in the Americas. Canada's adherence to this Convention will assist in the implementation of Canada's firearms regulations.

"One of the ways we, as Canadians, will meet our obligations under the Convention is by implementing universal registration of firearms to help us combat smuggling," said Anne McLellan, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada.

The Convention requires countries to control the cross-border movement of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials through import, export and transit authorizations, and to mark firearms at the time of manufacture and import.

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Jean Valin Canadian Firearms Centre Department of Justice (613) 946-1645

This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

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November 13, 1997

No. 187

TRADE SUMMIT PLANS, BUSINESS DEALS CONCLUDE BUSINESSWOMEN'S TRADE MISSION

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi announced in Washington today that a Canada-U.S. International Women's Trade Summit will be held in Toronto in May 1999, building on work by a new research coalition of public and private sector groups.

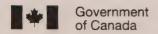
Mr. Marchi also witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Women Entrepreneurs of Canada Foundation and the National Foundation of Women Business Owners, a U.S. group. The Canada-U.S. alliance will ensure binational cooperation in the research coalition and trade summit.

"The women's trade summit and the research coalition are key steps in getting more firms led by women involved in Canada-U.S. trade," said Mr. Marchi. "This is bound to lead to increased business between our two countries. And these initiatives should help the Government of Canada design improved export services for women as they compete in international markets."

"This summit will strengthen the already dynamic relationship between women entrepreneurs on both sides of the border," said Aida Alvarez, Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration. "The Small Business Administration's goal is to increase small business opportunities in the international market, and we hope this summit will enhance our already strong links with Canada."

The research coalition recognizes the need for better information in Canada on the role of women entrepreneurs in domestic and international markets. The first international Conference on Women Entrepreneurs at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris in April 1997 underlined the importance to all member governments of better understanding the role of women entrepreneurs in the economy, international trade and job creation.

Along with developing improved information, the new coalition of governments, businesses and universities will lay the groundwork for the Toronto women's trade summit. It will be steered by



government agencies supporting women entrepreneurs, including the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Industry Canada, and Status of Women Canada.

In addition, Mr. Marchi was present at signings of agreements, strategic alliances and partnerships involving paper companies, freight contractors, multi-media firms and a firm making specialty promotional items. The signings illustrated the success Canadian firms led by women can achieve in the United States.

Among the Canadian companies were TRI-AD International of Mississauga, Ontario; North American Specialty Papers of Hemmingford, Quebec.; MediaStats Inc./MediaLAB of Markham, Ontario; the Medea Group Ltd. of Toronto, Ontario; Two Crazy Ladies Inc. of Willowdale, Ontario; and Stamp of Approval of Vancouver, B.C.

Mr. Marchi was also in Washington to hold discussions with U.S. Commerce Secretary William Daley and U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky on bilateral trade policy issues and with Aida Alvarez on matters related to the businesswomen's mission.

- 30 -

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Backgrounder

CANADIAN BUSINESSWOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE MISSION TRADE SUMMIT AND AGREEMENTS

Research Coalition and Trade Summit

The coalition will:

- foster more research on the role of Canadian companies owned and led by women in international markets;
- pool resources and efforts of participating organizations;
- act on many of the recommendations of the Conference on Women Entrepreneurs, sponsored by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris last April;
- pave the way for the Canada-U.S. women's trade summit.

It will be steered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Industry Canada, and Status of Women Canada and will include participants from universities, provincial governments and the private sector.

The Royal Bank of Canada, IBM Canada, and Business Development Bank of Canada have announced their support for the trade summit. The Royal Bank has also pledged to support the coalition. In addition, the National Association of Women Business Owners in the United States and the Women Entrepreneurs of Canada Foundation today signed a Memorandum of Understanding on joint research and will join the coalition.

JoAnna Townsend, Director of the Small to Medium-Sized Enterprise Division in the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, has recently been named by International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi to co-ordinate the Department's activities in support of the activity.

Toronto's York University has been selected as the summit site following an offer from Lorna Marsden, the university's President.

Agreements

Agreements and contracts signed in Washington today include:

• TRI-AD International of Mississauga, Ontario (Linda Collier, President) entered a partnership agreement with Surfair of Atlanta, Georgia in which Surfair will promote TRI-AD

freight services in the United States. The contract is potentially worth \$4 million.

- North American Specialty Papers of Hemmingford, Quebec (Robin Saunders, President) signed an agreement with Stone Container International of Chicago for Stone Container to represent the Canadian company's products in Iceland, Greenland, the Faroe Islands and Ghana. Sales for North American Specialty Papers could reach between \$5.6 million and \$7 million annually.
- MediaStats Inc./MediaLAB of Markham, Ontario (Kerry Wicks, President) signed an agreement with Tribune Media Services of Chicago, which will act as an official reseller of Mediastats' information management services in the United States. The company expects sales of their systems in the U.S. to amount to \$100 000 in the first year.
- The Medea Group Ltd. of Toronto, Ontario (Mary Fote, President), an advanced multi-media company offering digital image databases, signed a three-way strategic alliance partnership with International Business Resources (Canada) Corp. of Toronto and Arthur-Jones Inc. of Mississauga, a high-quality printer associated with the U.S. company Jay Packaging Group Inc. of Warwick, Rhode Island. Sales are expected to be about \$250 000 a year.
- Two Crazy Ladies Inc. of Willowdale, Ontario (Melanie Sibbitt, President) formed a strategic alliance with KT and Associates of San Diego, California, to market the Canadian company's full range of customized promotional and gift items such as pens, mugs and keychains along with the U.S. company's convention and meeting planning services. The two companies anticipate sales valued at \$250 000 a year.

As well, Stamp of Approval of Vancouver, B.C. (Wendi Copeland, President) has sold 3D-relief fridge magnets to Domaine Chandon winery of Napa Valley, California. Stamp of Approval was assisted by Canada's International Trade Centre in Vancouver and Consulates General in Seattle and Los Angeles.

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November 14, 1997

No. 188

CANADIAN ELECTED HEAD OF WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION



International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi announced today the recent election of Sheila Batchelor, Canada's Commissioner of Patents, Registrar of Trade-marks and Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO), as Chair of the General Assembly of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

"The election of Ms. Batchelor is testament to Canada's continued leadership in the international intellectual property community and is part of this Government's commitment to promote Canadian values on the world stage," Minister Marchi declared. "She is also the first Canadian and the first woman ever to occupy this influential post."

This election also coincides with the appointment of a new Director General for WIPO, Dr. Kamil Idris of Sudan, whose predecessor, Dr. Arpad Bogsch, is retiring after 24 years as executive head of the organization.

"I am honoured to have been elected to this position and look forward to working closely with the new Director General on WIPO programs and directions for the future. We will work hard to equip member states of this important multilateral organization to face the challenges as we approach the new millennium," said Ms. Batchelor.

Ms. Batchelor joins WIPO at a time when the organization is committed to increasing the use of information technologies both internally and between member states. Ms. Batchelor will continue her executive duties with CIPO during her two-year term as chair of the WIPO General Assembly.

"I congratulate Ms. Batchelor. Her familiarity with Canada's success in using information technology in the field of intellectual property will position her to help guide this transition and share our experiences with other countries," commented Industry Minister John Manley. "With the growth of the

knowledge-based economy and the associated importance of effective intellectual property protection, this new role for Canada is vital since we are increasingly committed to co-operating with other nations in promoting intellectual property laws."

WIPO's objective is to promote respect for, and protection of, intellectual property throughout the world through co-operation among member states. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations with headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. WIPO was established by a Convention that was signed at Stockholm in 1967 and entered into force in 1970. Canada is one of 161 member states.

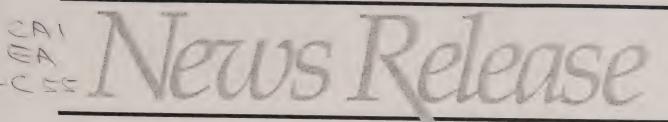
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November 14, 1997

No. 189

AXWORTHY SADDENED BY CANADIAN DIPLOMAT'S DEATH IN UKRAINE

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today expressed shock and sadness at the news of the tragic death of Canadian Foreign Service Officer, Mr. Roman Lishchynski and his chauffeur, Mr. Ivan Bunu in a car accident in Ukraine yesterday evening.

"Mr. Lishchynski made an enormous, enduring contribution to the international community," said Mr. Axworthy.

At the time of his death, Mr. Lishchynski was on secondment to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), directing the NATO Information and Documentation Centre in Kyiv. Prior to this assignment, Mr. Lishchynski served as head of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Mission to Ukraine. Earlier, he led the Canadian Embassy in Kyiv as Chargé, following three years there as Political Counsellor and extensive experience within the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade at home and abroad.

"We are all much in his debt and much poorer for his passing. Roman Lishchynski was a dedicated and highly accomplished servant of Canadian bilateral and multilateral interests. To our relations with Ukraine, the land of his ancestral origin, he brought vision, understanding and energetic competence in the fulfilment of Ukrainian freedom. He played an equally important role in building Ukraine's relations with international security institutions, one of that country's major foreign policy goals."

"I extend sincere sympathy and condolence to his family and friends and to those of Mr. Ivan Bunu."

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November 19, 1997

No. 191

SECRETARY OF STATE KILGOUR TO ADDRESS THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) David Kilgour will visit the Organization of American States (OAS) November 20 in Washington, D.C., to discuss a number of multilateral issues with OAS representatives.

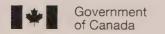
"During the visit, I'll be raising issues important to Canadians," said Secretary Kilgour. "In the months leading up to next April's Summit of the Americas in Chile, it is important to discuss common approaches to development and social issues among OAS members."

The purpose of Secretary Kilgour's visit is to strengthen Canada's presence politically in the OAS and the hemisphere, and to reaffirm Canada's commitment to multilateral collective action as the principal means of addressing some of the hemisphere's most pressing problems. These problems include the narcotic drug trade, trafficking in illicit weapons, landmines, poverty, environmental degradation, and the need for greater democratization and better protection and promotion of human rights.

While in Washington, Secretary Kilgour will address the Permanent Council of the OAS and hold meetings with key officials of the OAS and ambassadors of OAS member states. In addition, Secretary Kilgour will meet with the President of the Inter-American Development Bank, Enrique Iglesias.

Topics to be discussed include ongoing progress on the Free Trade Area of the Americas; democratic development and human rights; Canada's support for OAS reform; inter-American development projects, particularly as they pertain to the economic integration of disabled people in the workforce of the Americas; sharing Canada's health expertise with the Pan-American Health Organization; and the April 1998 Summit of the Americas.

The OAS was founded in 1890, making it the world's oldest





hemispheric international organization. Canada joined in 1972 as a permanent observer and became a full member in 1990. The organization's mandate is to strengthen peace and security, promote and consolidate representative democracy, help settle political, juridical and economic problems, and foster economic, social and cultural development in the hemisphere. In 1999, Canada will be hosting the Pan-American Games in Winnipeg and, in the year 2000, the 30th General Assembly of the OAS to mark the 10th anniversary of Canada's membership in the organization.

- 30 -

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news release

November 20, 1997

No. 192

AXWORTHY TABLES LEGISLATION ALLOWING CANADA TO MEET LANDMINE-BAN TREATY OBLIGATIONS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today tabled legislation in the House of Commons that would enable Canada to fulfil its obligations under the international Convention banning landmines. which will open for signature at the Treaty Signing Conference and Mine Action Forum in Ottawa on December 3. Minister Axworthy introduced the legislation in his capacity as Minister responsible for the Convention.

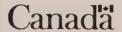
"The landmine-ban campaign has attracted support from a broad spectrum of society, including within Parliament where all parties have shown keen interest in this issue. It is important that Parliament be given the opportunity to review this legislation and, we hope, adopt it, prior to the Treaty Signing Conference. This would allow Canada to reinforce its leadership on this issue by being the first country to be able to meet fully its obligations under the treaty, " said Mr. Axworthy.

The legislation, called the Anti-Personnel Mines Convention Implementation Act, is necessary in order to give force of law to Canada's political and diplomatic obligations as a signatory to the Convention.

The Act will implement the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, which was adopted at a negotiating conference in Oslo, Norway, last September.

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Highlights of the Act are described in the attached backgrounder.



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Backgrounder

ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION ACT

The Act implements Canada's obligations under the Convention. In particular, the Act prohibits persons from using, developing, producing, possessing or transferring to anyone, anti-personnel mines.

Destruction of Anti-Personnel Mines

Consistent with Convention requirements, the Act requires persons who possess anti-personnel mines for purposes other than those permitted under the Act to deliver the mines to designated officials, who will see that the mines are destroyed.

Fact-Finding Mission

As required under the Convention, an international fact-finding team can inspect Canadian facilities or installations in order to gather information on issues relating to compliance with the Act. The Act allows the fact-finding team to be accompanied by a person designated by the responsible Minister.

Dwelling houses may be inspected only with the consent of the occupants. Military or weapons installations and facilities, and other similar installations and facilities, may not be inspected without the consent of the persons in control of those installations or facilities, except under the authority of a warrant.

Penal Sanctions

The Convention requires that states parties are to take appropriate legal measures, including the imposition of penal sanctions, to prevent and suppress activities that are prohibited by the Convention. The Act sets out penal sanctions for non-compliance with the major prohibitions; failure to deliver anti-personnel mines for destruction; failure to comply with requests for information relevant to the enforcement of the Act; failure to comply with directions provided during the inspection; and knowingly making false or misleading statements during the inspections or wilfully obstructing the inspections.

Non-Prohibited Activities

The Act allows persons to possess anti-personnel mines for training in mine detection, clearing and destruction. The export and import of anti-personnel mines is also allowed for these purposes. Certain persons, such as peace officers and RCMP officers, are allowed to acquire, possess and transfer

anti-personnel mines in the course of their duties for purposes allowed under the Act, such as rendering the mines harmless.

Persons are allowed to display anti-personnel mines as museum exhibits, provided the mines have been deactivated in accordance with the Act and Regulations.



L'interdiction complète des mines terrestres



November 20, 1997

No. 193

AXWORTHY MEETS WITH SCHOOLCHILDREN AT LAUNCH OF UNICEF LANDMINE VIDEO

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy spoke with students from Ancaster Public School in Toronto today at an event hosted by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Canada, to launch UNICEF's new video, The Silent Shout: helping children learn about landmines. The Minister was joined by Janet Zukowsky, Vice-President, Partnership Branch, at the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), who was representing the Minister for International Co-operation and Minister Responsible for La Francophonie, Diane Marleau, and by Secretary of State for Children and Youth, Ethel Blondin-Andrew.

"Every month, over 2000 people are killed or injured by mines and about one third are children," said Mr. Axworthy. "But many people around the world have agreed that enough is enough, and we must stop making, selling or spreading new mines. We must work together to remove the millions of mines that are already in the ground, and we must help those, like the children in this video, who have been injured by mines."

"I want to thank UNICEF for producing this video, and to recognize the work that they have done in supporting a ban on landmines and helping children who have been injured by them," he added.

The video, which will be distributed to all elementary schools across the country, will help Canadian children to understand the damage that landmines do to people's lives, particularly those of children, in dozens of mine-affected countries around the world.

It will also be used worldwide, and particularly in mine-affected countries, to help save children's lives by teaching them how to protect themselves from danger and how to cope with the impact of landmines.



"Raising awareness of the landmine issue is an important part of CIDA's commitment to development education," said Madame Marleau. "At the same time, Canada must continue to help rehabilitate victims and clear mined areas, so that children around the world can grow up in safety and security."

"When you consider that approximately 8000 children are killed or injured by mines annually, you realize that the human costs alone are felt for generations," said Ms. Blondin-Andrew. "That is why this landmine treaty is so important, and why ongoing public education is vital. This video project will play an important role in accomplishing that goal."

The children attending the event presented their own version of a landmine "treaty," which expressed their concern and support for those children who live daily with the reality of landmines and who are affected emotionally and physically by them. The children's treaty can be viewed by visiting the Youth Page of the Government of Canada's landmines Web site at www.mines.gc.ca.

This event takes place less than two weeks before more than 100 countries are expected to attend an international conference in Ottawa to sign a treaty banning landmines. It also coincides with National Child Day in Canada, and marks the eighth anniversary of the United Nations' adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and CIDA each contributed \$75 000 for the translation and reproduction costs of this video.

Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 1997 federal budget, and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

- 30 -

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Media Relations Office Canadian International Development Agency (819) 953-6534



November 21, 1997

No. 194

CANADA AND SINGAPORE SIGN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS **TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENTS**

Minister for International Trade Sergio Marchi and Minister for Trade and Industry and Second Minister for Finance of Singapore H.E. Lee Yock Suan signed today a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on co-operation in information and telecommunications technology. They also witnessed the signing of 13 agreements estimated to be worth over \$150 million by a number of associations and companies.

"This MOU opens a technological gateway between our countries that should act as a catalyst for increased scientific, business, educational and cultural ties, " said Mr. Marchi. "These agreements are positive proof of the opportunities for co-operation between Canada and Singapore."

"It is a milestone in our excellent bilateral relations," said Mr. Lee Yock Suan. "Close collaboration between our two countries in the fields of information and communications technology will enhance our competitive advantages in these strategic industries, which are engines of growth in the global market."

The MOU will support the development of technologies, products and services for the benefit of industry, education and research in Canada and Singapore. It has five key thrusts: enabling physical connectivity, cultivating research and development, promoting educational and learning program exchanges, accelerating commercial and industry exchange, and co-ordinating electronic commerce policies.

Today's signings include a new electronic linkage between CANARIE - the Canadian Network for the Advancement of Research, Industry and Education - and Singapore ONE, a high-speed Internet network that delivers interactive, multimedia applications and services to homes, schools and businesses throughout Singapore. The link will allow students from Canada and Singapore to benefit from the exchange of online educational services and distance learning.



Jointly released by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Canada, and the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore.

A backgrounder is attached.

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Backgrounder

CANADA-SINGAPORE AGREEMENTS

The Canadian Network for the Advancement of Research, Industry and Education (CANARIE) and the Telecommunication Authority of Singapore (TAS) have signed an agreement to support and promote the objectives of their mutual programs in developing advanced, next-generation networking applications and services by the interconnecting of Canada's Next Generation Internet, CA*net II, and the Singapore Internet Next Generation Advanced Research and Education (SINGAREN). CANARIE is a non-profit organization that supports and facilitates the development of a knowledge-based information infrastructure in Canada. TAS is the national regulator and promoter of the telecommunication and postal industries in the Republic of Singapore. TAS also plays a leading role in the development of Singapore's national information infrastructure, Singapore ONE.

The Communications Research Centre of Canada and the National Computer Board of Singapore have signed a memorandum of understanding to establish a co-operative program to further the spirit of the principles established in the Information and Communications Technologies Agreement signed by the Government of the Republic of Singapore and the Government of Canada on November 21, 1997.

The University of Waterloo and the National University of Singapore have signed a memorandum of understanding for co-operation in education and research. The two universities will also explore the use of the high-speed link to promote distance learning and explore the transmission of research seminars and workshops between the institutions.

The University of Toronto (Faculty of Information Studies) and the National University of Singapore (Institute of Systems Science) have signed a memorandum of understanding for collaboration on distance learning. The two parties will share existing courses and products and help each other test new teaching models and emerging technologies. The Faculty of Information Studies is one of the world's leading faculties in the field of information management and knowledge management. The Institute of Systems Science is Asia Pacific's leading centre for advanced information technology education and technology transfer for senior management and professionals.

Industry Canada and the National Computer Board of Singapore (NCB) signed a memorandum of understanding to facilitate the development of a learning network. The two parties will explore the exchange of expertise in the application of information

communication technologies in the areas of government services, health, learning and training, as well as in the co-development of instructional techniques using the latest technology. They have also agreed to explore ways in which to combine efforts toward the effective export of their information communication technology sectors.

The Information Technology Association of Canada (ITAC), in partnership with the Canadian Network for the Advancement of Research, Industry and Education (CANARIE) and the Singapore Federation of Computer Industries (SFCI), signed a collaborative agreement to extend business development services to members of one another's organizations, identify and promote success stories of Canada-Singapore collaboration and business partnership, explore sources of funding and collaborate in raising awareness of special business opportunities. The Canada-Singapore ICT [Information and Communications Technology] Industry Steering Committee will be formed to act as a facilitating organization to champion and co-ordinate the efforts.

A joint venture company, called NCS-SelfServe Asia Pacific, will be set up by the end of 1997 to provide electronic commerce outsourcing services to the Asia Pacific region. This joint venture is between Commerce Direct International (CDI) from Calgary, Alberta, and National Computer Systems Pte Ltd. (NCS), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Singapore Telecom Group. CDI will provide the technology and know-how and NCS will provide the marketing, solution customization, implementation, help desk support, and post-implementation support for NCS-SelfServe. NCS-SelfServe's electronic commerce outsourcing service is already in operation in Singapore with a number of Singapore-based customers. The initial customers who will be partnering NCS-SelfServe for electronic distribution of their products include AICO Arena International Corp., Comcentral, Home Ticket Network, NetNanny Pte Ltd. and SoftSearch Information Services.

Morgan Media Inc., of Sidney, British Columbia, has signed a strategic marketing partnership memorandum of understanding with ST Computer Systems & Services Limited to distribute their product exclusively in Singapore and Malaysia and non-exclusively for the rest of the Asia Pacific region.

Morgan Media Inc. has also signed an agreement establishing a joint venture company with the Institute of Systems Science (ISS) to carry out the development, commercialization and worldwide marketing of online communities and virtual environments for education and entertainment, using and exploiting technologies, innovations and expertise residing in Morgan Media and ISS.

Rhema Ventures Pte Ltd. and SRI Strategic Resources Inc., of Burnaby, British Columbia, have signed a strategic partnership agreement to promote and implement SRI's integrated

Internet/IVR/Kiosk business applications. The strategic partnership focusses on joint development and marketing of Interactive Voice Response (IVR)/Internet/Kiosk/Wireless and related electronic commerce technologies in financial institutions, government and the private sector.

SRI Strategic Resources Inc. and ST Computer Systems & Services Limited (STCS) have signed a memorandum of understanding establishing a strategic marketing partnership. The two parties have agreed to develop co-operative business activities and seek new markets for each party's products and services. STCS will also work in conjunction with Rhema Ventures Pte Ltd., a business partner of SRI Strategic Resources Inc., to market and promote products and services belonging to SRI. SRI will also market and promote products and services belonging to STCS.

The Communication Security Establishment of Canada's Department of National Defence and the National Computer Board of the Republic of Singapore have signed an arrangement to exchange information and work toward common public key infrastructure policies and practices. They will also develop a draft crosscertification framework and strawman cross-certification agreement.



CAI EA CSS

November 21, 1997

AXWORTHY OPENS YOUTH COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE AT APEC

Minister of Foreign Affairs Lloyd Axworthy, in Vancouver to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum meeting, today opened a Youth Communications Centre at the APEC site.

"This year marked the first time that youth have been involved in APEC activities," said Mr. Axworthy. "The enthusiasm and vigour that they have demonstrated in making links with their counterparts in Asia Pacific, and the knowledge they are gaining, are very encouraging for the future of this region. The Centre highlights their contribution to this year's events."

Approximately 25 youth delegates from APEC economies are in Vancouver for the APEC meeting. Youth were designated as a special target group for involvement in APEC activities when 1997 was designated Canada's Year of Asia Pacific. Their participation has included attendance at a series of ministerial-level meetings held in Canada on a variety of economic and social issues. As well, the national multimedia Asia Connects Youth Conference held last September in Winnipeg was attended by 200 youth delegates, and was linked via the Internet to hundreds of other young people in Canada and Asia from 12 multi-sites.

Other youth initiatives of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade include the International Youth Internships Program, which provides internships for 450 Canadian youth in co-operation with 33 private sector and non-governmental organizations. About 30 percent of the interns are based in APEC economies. The Department also manages the International Youth Exchange Program, which helped 11 000 young people to travel to 20 countries, among them Korea, Japan, New Zealand and Australia.

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November 21, 1997

No. 195

APEC EXPORT CREDIT AGENCIES SIGN PROTOCOL TO INCREASE RISK SHARING AND PARTNERSHIP

Minister for International Trade Sergio Marchi announced today that Export Credit Agencies (ECAs) and Export Financing Institutions (EFIs) of the members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum have signed a protocol to increase co-operation and co-ordination of their activities.

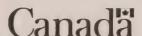
"We are delighted with the degree of co-operation and the desire on the part of APEC ECAs and EFIs to reach this agreement, " said Minister Marchi. "It is our hope that this enhanced co-operation and co-ordination will serve as a catalyst to increased trade among APEC members."

The protocol covers a wide range of financial and risk management activities, including financing, insurance, guarantees and other forms of official support which do not undermine market principles. The goal is to expand trade opportunities and partnerships to benefit APEC economies.

Agencies have agreed to work more closely on projects in the form of joint financing, co-financing, equity participation, guarantees, co-insurance, reinsurance and consultation and co-ordination agreements.

The protocol also enables agencies to exchange information about technical, commercial and financial aspects of specific projects being considered for potential co-operation and to exchange nonconfidential information on buyers and conditions of various industries in APEC economies.

As host to the Export Credit Agencies and Export Financing Institutions within APEC, Canada's Export Development Corporation played an instrumental role in the development of the protocol.



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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

November 23, 1997

No. 196

CANADA ANNOUNCES ASSISTANCE TO INDONESIAN LABOUR LEADER

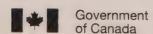
Minister of Foreign Affairs Lloyd Axworthy today announced in Vancouver that, following discussions held earlier this week with Indonesia's Attorney General, Canada will send medical personnel and special diagnostic equipment to provide assistance to jailed Indonesian labour leader Muchtar Pakpahan. This initiative is being undertaken with the generous contributions of Canadian Airlines International, which is donating travel and shipment costs, and Xillix Technologies of Vancouver, which is lending the equipment to the Government of Canada and will assume the costs of the medical team.

"Mr. Pakpahan's health is of concern to human rights activists both in Indonesia and abroad, " said Mr. Axworthy. "We hope that this humanitarian mission will provide an accurate diagnosis of Mr. Pakpahan's condition."

Mr. Pakpahan, a renowned labour rights leader, is currently serving a four-year jail term in Indonesia for inciting labour unrest. He has been undergoing medical treatment for organ tumours in a Jakarta hospital over the last several months. Indonesian doctors have recommended that he be diagnosed with a lung imagery fluorescence endoscopy (LIFE) to investigate the extent of his illness. As this equipment is not available in Indonesia, the Indonesian government has agreed to treatment being provided by a foreign country.

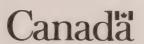
Dr. Stephen Lam, a lung specialist affiliated with the British Columbia Cancer Agency, helped Xillix Technologies to design the LIFE and will perform the tests with the support of a Canadian respiratory therapist and a Canadian technician.

During a visit to Jakarta in July by Minister Axworthy, Canada and Indonesia reached an agreement establishing a ministeriallevel bilateral consultative forum. The forum has a mandate to facilitate constructive dialogue and to advance opportunities for



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co-operation in bilateral and international areas, including governance and human rights.

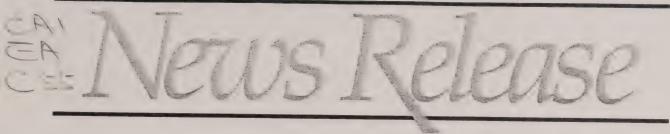
- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca



November 25, 1997

No. 197

DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENT

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy announces the appointment of Leonard J. Edwards as Ambassador to Japan.

Biographical Note

Leonard J. Edwards (BA, University of Saskatchewan, 1967; MA [History], University of Saskatchewan, 1969) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1969. He served abroad in Saigon, Hanoi and Ankara, as well as with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Secretariat in Brussels and with the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations at Geneva. From 1991 to 1994, he served as Ambassador to the Republic of Korea. In Ottawa, Mr. Edwards has held a number of positions, including Deputy Executive Director and subsequently Executive Director, Summits Management Office, with responsibility for the organization of the 1988 and 1995 Economic Summits and the 1987 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. He has also served as Director General, Corporate Management Bureau (1988-91) and Assistant Deputy Minister, Asia Pacific (1994-96). Since 1996, Mr. Edwards has been Assistant Deputy Minister for Trade and Economic Policy, with special responsibility, as Canada's senior APEC official, for preparing this week's APEC Economic Leaders' meeting in Vancouver. Mr. Edwards is married to Margaret E. McDonald and they have two children. He succeeds Donald Campbell.

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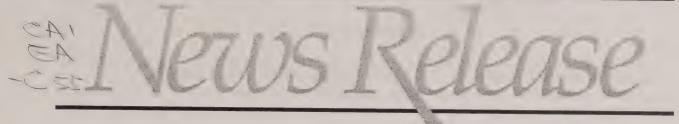
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November 27, 1997

No. 198

CANADIAN COMPANIES SIGN \$2.3 BILLION IN COMMERCIAL DEALS WITH CHINESE PARTNERS

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today announced 12 business deals worth \$2.3 billion between Canada and China, along with five other agreements, at a special signing ceremony held during the annual Canada-China Business Council (CCBC) meeting in Toronto.

The event involved Canadian companies and members of the Chinese business delegation travelling with President Jiang Zemin of China, who is on an official visit to Canada from November 26 to 29.

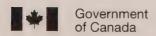
"These new business deals demonstrate the significant potential that the China market holds for Canada," said Mr. Marchi. "Canadian firms have an impressive record of success in China, marked by a 35-percent increase in two-way trade over the past five years. The deals signed today reaffirm existing strengths and carve out new areas of co-operation in line with China's future economic development needs."

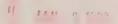
A wide range of Canadian industries was represented on this occasion, with their Chinese partners from such sectors as manufacturing, financial services and banking, telecommunications, construction and energy, among other areas.

These deals will create numerous new jobs, contributing to economic growth for both Canada and China.

Under the terms of the deals, China will gain improved manufacturing and telecommunications infrastructure, Canadian banking expertise and affordable Canadian-made housing, as well as new investments in environmental technologies and the transportation sector.

"The federal government has consistently sought to expand business relations between Canada and China. These business deals reflect the supportive role of the federal government, and the







Canadian Embassy and consulates in China, in helping our Canadian companies to do business in that country. This successful approach supports economic growth and job creation here at home, "said Mr. Marchi.

The breakdown for today's signings is as follows: memorandums of understanding, letters of intent (\$1.42 billion), contracts/agreements (\$670.9 million), and joint ventures (\$168 million).

Details of the business deals signed today are in the attached backgrounder.

- 30 -

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Backgrounder

CONTRACT SIGNING AND ANNOUNCEMENT CEREMONY WITH CHINA

Alcan Aluminium Limited, Montréal, Quebec

Alcan Aluminium Limited has signed a letter of intent with China National Non-Ferrous Metals (CNNC) regarding their decision to proceed with a detailed feasibility study on a proposed aluminum smelter and power complex in Hejin City, Shanxi Province, in China. The smelter would have a capacity of 240 000 tonnes. The value of this project is approximately \$1.42 billion.

Bank of Nova Scotia, Toronto, Ontario

The Bank of Nova Scotia was presented with a licence approval by the People's Bank of China, Chongqing, to open a branch in Chongqing. Scotiabank, Chongqing Branch, is the first foreign bank to be licensed to operate in this municipality and will engage in a broad range of foreign currency-related banking activities.

Bombardier Inc., Montréal, Quebec Power Corporation of Canada, Montréal, Quebec

A memorandum of understanding was signed for a joint venture in Qing Dao, Shandong Province, to produce high-grade passenger railcars for the Chinese and export markets. Partners include Sifang, a subsidiary of China National Railways Locomotive and Rolling Stock Industry Corporation, Bombardier Inc. and Power Corporation of Canada. The project will help modernize a major state-owned enterprise under the Ministry of Railways, contributing to enhance the competitiveness of China's rolling-stock industry.

Bull, Housser & Tupper, Vancouver, British Columbia
Bull, Housser & Tupper, a Vancouver-based law firm, has been
granted a licence to operate in Shanghai by the Minister of
Justice of China, Xiao Yang. As one of Canada's leading business
law firms, Bull, Housser & Tupper was the first Canadian law firm
to establish an office in China, in 1985, and continues to
maintain a presence in Shanghai.

China Energy and Power Corporation, Toronto, Ontario
China Energy and Power Corporation (CEPCO) has signed a further agreement with Guizhou Province in connection with its plan to develop one of the largest remaining anthracite deposits in the world, a project valued at \$375 million. CEPCO intends to commence large-scale coal production to support the power generation business and the region's steel, aluminum and cement industries and to supply certain export markets. CEPCO will also establish an on-site coal-fired power plant.

Easy Field Consultants (Canada) Ltd., Markham, Ontario
Easy Field Consultants (Canada) Ltd. has signed a joint venture
agreement worth \$168 million with Shanghai Songnan Real Estate
Co. Ltd. for the development of new-generation Chinese affordable
housing. Using the latest Canadian building technology, new homes
and facilities will be built for over 7000 families in the Nanshi
District of Shanghai.

Eco Waste Solutions Inc. (Yue Xiu (Canada) Inc.), Burlington, Ontario

Eco Waste Solutions Inc.'s agent in China, Yue Xiu (Canada) Inc., has signed an agreement, worth \$122 million over a three-year period, with Anshan Machinery of Liaoning Province for the manufacture and sale of Eco Waste's environmentally renowned waste incineration oxidizer. This incineration oxidizer has the capability of disposing of 1-50 tonnes of waste per day.

Export Development Corporation, Ottawa, Ontario
The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has signed three memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with Chinese financial institutions. The first, with the State Development Bank of China (SDB), would allow for the establishment of further credit facilities and support regular information exchange and co-operation in training programs. This general co-operation agreement further enhances the excellent relationship that EDC enjoys with SDB.

EDC also signed an MOU with the Export-Import Bank of China, which provides for co-operation on joint financing of projects, enhanced information exchange and training programs.

The agreement with the Industrial & Commercial Bank of China positions EDC to support Canadian contracts with Chinese buyers through future credit facilities and other forms of co-operation.

Harris Canada Inc. (Harris Communications Shenzhen), Montréal, Ouebec

Harris Communications Shenzhen has signed two new contracts. The first involves the sale of microwave radios to Beijing Unicom for the third phase of Beijing Unicom's Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) Network. This project is valued at \$2.9 million. The second contract, worth \$6.3 million, will provide microwave radios for Shandong Unicom's GSM Network.

Beijing Unicom and Shandong Unicom are part of China United Telecommunications Corporation (China Unicom), a major telecommunications company operating in China.

Inter-Citic Envirotec Inc., Toronto, Ontario
Inter-Citic Envirotec Inc. signed a testing agreement with the
Beijing General Mining and Metallurgical Corporation (GEMCO)
covering their continuing co-operation on the development and

marketing of Inter-Citic's patented Centrifugal Flotation Cell (CFC) in China. This agreement requires 50-percent Canadian content on all installations.

The CFC was developed to make it economically feasible for the mining industry to recover a variety of fine mineral particles from mineral-processing plants around the world.

Newbridge Networks Corporation, Kanata, Ontario

Newbridge Networks Corporation has signed an agreement with the Guangdong Post and Telecommunications Authority (GPTA) to supply approximately \$43 million in additional Newbridge Digital Data Network (DDN) equipment. Under the deal, Newbridge Networks Corporation will assist the Guangdong Post Telecommunications Authority in planning their multi-service networking using Newbridge's most advanced Asychronous Transfer Mode (ATM) and Frame Relay (FR) technology. Newbridge will continue to supply and provide support for its DDN equipment. The GPTA has been using Newbridge DDN equipment since 1992.

Northern Telecom Limited, Calgary, Alberta

Nortel (Northern Telecom Limited) has signed a number of contracts with several Chinese business partners, valued at approximately \$135 million. Nortel signed contracts with China United Telecommunications Corporation; Beijing Telecommunications Administration; Henan Post and Telecommunications Authority (PTA); Chongqing Telecommunications Administration; Yunnan PTA; Jianxi PTA; Hebei PTA; and Guangdong PTA. The contracts call for the delivery of a wide variety of network solutions that rely on Nortel's sophisticated switching, transmission, fibre access, GSM (wireless) and ancillary equipment.

Royal Canadian Mint, Ottawa, Ontario

The Royal Canadian Mint has signed an agreement for a \$7 million joint project with the China Gold Coin Incorporation. In 1998, the Royal Canadian Mint and the China Gold Coin Incorporation will launch a set of two silver coins commemorating one of Canada's great humanitarians, Dr. Norman Bethune, acknowledging Dr. Bethune's contribution to medicine in Canada, China and the world.

Xenexi Group Investment Ltd., Montréal, Quebec

Xenexi Group Investment Ltd. has signed a contract worth approximately \$24.7 million with Chongqing Economic & Technological Development Zone Import/Export Corporation for the turnkey design and construction of 127 wood-frame villas in Chongqing. Since 1994, Xenexi has successfully completed more than 100 Canadian-style wood-frame villas and townhouses in Wuhan, Shanghai and other regions of China.





news release

No. 199

AXWORTHY WELCOMES PASSAGE OF ANTI-LANDMINE LEGISLATION

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today welcomed the passage in Parliament of the Anti-Personnel Mines Convention Implementation Act.

"I am delighted by the swift passage of this bill," said Mr. Axworthy. "All members of both houses are to be congratulated for their co-operation and active participation in this effort. Canada will now be able to reinforce its global leadership on this issue by signing the international convention banning landmines next Wednesday and, at the same time, be the first country to ratify it. We will be encouraging other signatories to ratify quickly as well, so that the convention can enter into force as soon as possible."

The legislation received Royal Assent in Parliament late in the day on November 27. It passed easily after having been introduced for first reading on November 20. The legislation ensures that Canada has in place the domestic measures necessary to ratify and fully implement its obligations under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction.

The convention, which opens for signature at an international Signing Conference and Mines Action Forum in Ottawa, December 2 to 4, will enter into force six months after it has been ratified by 40 countries.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874

November 28, 1997

No. 200

CANADA WELCOMES NEW UNITED NATIONS CIVILIAN POLICE MISSION IN HAITI

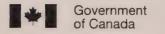
The Government of Canada today welcomed the decision of the United Nations Security Council to create a new UN Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (MIPONUH). The mission's mandate is to assist the Government of Haiti in supporting and contributing to the professionalization of the Haitian National Police. It has been formed in response to a request by the President of the Republic of Haiti to the UN Secretary-General for further support for the development of the Haitian National Police. The mission's mandate will expire on November 30, 1998.

"The United Nations police mission in Haiti is an entirely new mission that is clearly adapted to Haiti's special and evolving circumstances," said Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy. "Canada believes that the new mission established today and the resolution that authorizes it are evidence of the continuing commitment of the international community to assisting Haiti as it continues these early, important steps along the road to stability and development as a democratic nation."

The mandate of the current UN Transition Mission in Haiti (UNTMIH) expires November 30 when most of the participating 600 Canadian Forces members will return home. A small number will remain in Haiti until Canadian equipment has been returned to Canada, and will also assist with the liquidation of UN assets.

"The men and women of our Canadian Forces were very successful in establishing and maintaining a secure and stable environment in which the Haitian people could build democracy," said Minister of National Defence Art Eggleton. "Their contribution has made a lasting impression on the people of Haiti."

Many of the 50 Canadian civilian police officers now serving in Haiti with MITNUH will return to Canada, while others will continue to serve with MIPONUH. The new mission will comprise up to 300 civilian police officers, some of whom will form a security unit to provide assistance to the personnel of the Mission and to protect its property.



Canadä

"The Royal Canadian Mounted Police's expertise is known around the world," said Solicitor General Andy Scott. "This mission will no doubt make a valuable contribution to the professionalization of the Haitian National Police."

Canada will provide some 24 police officers to MIPONUH, along with six personnel carriers for the special police unit, in addition to the technical assistance provided by Canadian police experts to the Haitian National Police as one part of Canada's broader bilateral program of development assistance.

"Without the rule of law," said Diane Marleau, Minister for International Co-operation and Minister responsible for la Francophonie, "there can be no sustainable social or economic development in Haiti. This support is an integral part of our assistance program to Haiti, which focusses on democracy and good governance, basic human needs and economic development."

The mission will be financed in part by the UN and in part by voluntary contributions from various countries, including Canada.

- 30 -

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site at: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

ESELVEUS Release

December 3, 1997

No. 201

SIGNATURE OF AN ARRANGEMENT ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION BETWEEN CANADA AND NORWAY

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today signed an Arrangement on Trade and Economic Co-operation with Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Knut Vollebaek. This Arrangement will further enhance economic relations between the two countries, stimulate increased co-operation in a variety of areas of mutual concern, and encourage alliances between Canadian and Norwegian companies.

"Norway is a valued trade and investment partner for Canada. This arrangement should strengthen our collaboration in multilateral forums, and bilaterally, will be of mutual benefit," said Mr. Marchi. "Through this arrangement, we will identify and analyse our trade and investment flows with a view to enhancing the bilateral trade and investment relationship."

A consultative group will be established to ensure the implementation of the Arrangement on Trade and Economic Co-operation and the fulfilment of its objectives.

In conformity with their international commitments, Norway and Canada will endeavour to create the most favourable conditions for liberalization of trade in goods and services, and investment between them, in accordance with a Joint Work Program. This program will also encourage the expansion of trade and investment between the Canadian and Norwegian private sectors, by fostering regular exchanges of information on opportunities for trade, investment and other promotional initiatives.

Trade relations between Canada and Norway have increased appreciably over the last three years. Norway is Canada's 18th-largest export market and its fifth-largest European trading partner — the largest among the Nordic states. In 1996, bilateral trade exceeded \$3.6 billion. Petroleum products represented the major part of Canada's \$2.8 billion in imports from Norway, while Canadian exports, consisting mostly of base metals and minerals,

aircraft, lumber, food products, electronics and telecommunications equipment, totalled \$848 million.

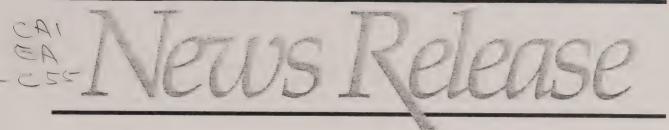
Norwegian direct investment in Canada has risen by more than 1000 percent since 1985. Total Norwegian investment in Canada amounts to over \$553 million, with the largest being Norsk Hydro's magnesium plant in Bécancour, Quebec. Significant Norwegian capital has also been invested in Canada's offshore oil and gas industry, aquaculture, transportation and pulp and paper.

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December 5, 1997

No. 202

MARCHI VISITS U.K. AND SWITZERLAND TO PROMOTE INVESTMENT IN CANADA, SIGN CO-OPERATION ACCORD AND REVIEW WTO TRADE AGENDA

Minister for International Trade Sergio Marchi will visit London to promote investment in Canada, Bern to sign an economic co-operation arrangement with Switzerland, and the World Trade Organization (WTO) headquarters in Geneva to discuss progress on trade liberalization initiatives, from December 8 to 10.

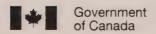
Mr. Marchi will meet senior representatives of British industry December 8 and 9 in London to review prospects for investment in Canada by major firms. While there, he will deliver an address to the Canada-United Kingdom Chamber of Commerce.

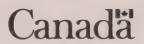
"Many European companies are not sufficiently aware of the bottom-line advantages that Canada offers them as a cost-competitive springboard to the world's richest market," Mr. Marchi said. "It is vital that British companies be apprised of the excellent conditions in Canada for investment, including open access to North American markets, low energy costs, low inflation and interest rates, outstanding physical and human infrastructure, and continuing strong economic growth."

In Bern on December 9, Mr. Marchi will sign a Trade and Economic Co-operation Arrangement with Switzerland to stimulate increased co-operation and encourage alliances between Canadian and Swiss firms. "This arrangement will enhance our bilateral trade and investment relationship," he said.

The Minister will meet with Renato Ruggiero, Director-General of the WTO, in Geneva on December 10, following which he will hold separate discussions with ambassadors to the WTO from several countries.

"Canada attaches great importance to the maintenance and enhancement of the WTO, and we are working hard to ensure that it





remains strong and effective. As Director-General, Mr. Ruggiero plays a key role in efforts to strengthen the multilateral trading system, and I want to ensure that he is fully aware of Canada's views as we move forward, "Mr. Marchi said.

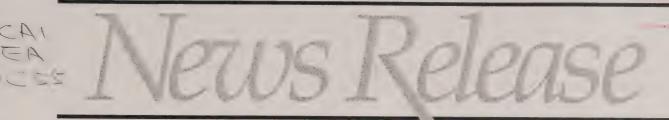
The Minister will also discuss ongoing trade liberalization initiatives, such as the current financial services negotiations in the WTO and the impact of sectoral liberalization under the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum. In addition, he will review plans for the next meeting of WTO Ministers in May 1998.

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December 9, 1997

No. 203

CANADA AND SWITZERLAND SIGN AN ARRANGEMENT ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today in Bern signed an Arrangement on Trade and Economic Co-operation with Switzerland's Minister of Economy Jean-Pascal Delamuraz. This Arrangement will further enhance economic relations between the two countries, stimulate increased co-operation in a variety of areas of mutual concern and encourage alliances between Canadian and Swiss companies.

"This Arrangement should strengthen Canada's bilateral and multilateral collaboration with Switzerland, a valued trade and investment partner," said Mr. Marchi. "We will identify and analyse our trade and investment flows through this Arrangement with a view to enhancing the Canadian-Swiss trade and investment relationship."

A Consultative Group will be established to ensure the implementation of the Arrangement on Trade and Economic Co-operation and the fulfilment of its objectives.

In conformity with their international commitments, Switzerland and Canada will endeavour to create the most favourable conditions for liberalizing trade in goods and services as well as investment between them, in accordance with a Joint Work Program. This program will also encourage the expansion of trade and investment between the Canadian and Swiss private sectors by fostering regular exchanges of information on opportunities for trade, investment and other promotional initiatives.

Trade relations between Canada and Switzerland have increased appreciably over the last two years. Switzerland is Canada's 17th-largest export market. In 1996, bilateral trade totalled approximately \$1.9 billion. Total Swiss investment in Canada amounts to \$3.8 billion, including established names such as Nestlé, Novartis and ABB. Canadian investment in Switzerland

exceeds \$1.2 billion, reflecting the presence of companies such as Royal Bank, Bata and SHL Systemhouse.

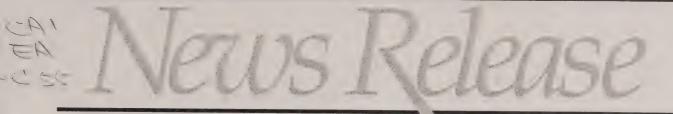
Canada signed a similar Arrangement last week with Norway.

- 30 -

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December 9, 1997

No. 204

AXWORTHY WELCOMES RELEASE OF REPORT ON PREVENTING DEADLY CONFLICT

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today welcomed the release of the Final Report of the Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict. The Commission's report is the culmination of an unprecedented three-year global effort to develop strategies for the prevention and resolution of deadly conflict within and between states. In gathering material for the Report, the Commission sponsored research by leading academics and policy makers from around the world on conflict prevention strategies, including preventive diplomacy, early-response mechanisms and the promotion of equitable social and economic development.

"As part of Canada's Peacebuilding Initiative, we are committed to assisting countries in conflict in their efforts toward peace and stability, " said Minister Axworthy. "However, sustainable peace can only be built through the active co-operation and participation of the governments, peoples and groups caught in the conflict itself. This means drawing on local, national, regional and international expertise and commitment, depending on what is most effective. In preparing this report, the Carnegie Commission has tapped this expertise and drawn insightful conclusions, which will inform future international efforts aimed at finding solutions to conflicts around the world."

As part of Canada's ongoing efforts to encourage an international peacebuilding network, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade will host in Ottawa, on February 17, the Canadian launch of the Commission's Report. Representatives of the Commission will be present at the launch to discuss the contents of the Report with officials, academics and non-government organizations from across Canada.

Established in 1994 by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Commission is an international body of 16 eminent policy makers and scholars, co-chaired by Dr. David A. Hamburg, President Emeritus of the Carnegie Corporation, and Cyrus R. Vance, former Secretary of State. Members include the former prime minister of Norway, Gro Harlem Brundtland; seven former foreign ministers, including Flora MacDonald, Lord David Owen, Gareth Evans and Sir Shridath Ramphal; as well as Sir Brian Urquhart and several other United Nations officials with long experience in conflict resolution and peacekeeping.

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December 11, 1997

No. 205

ANNUAL REPORT ON CANADA'S MILITARY GOODS EXPORTS TABLED IN PARLIAMENT TODAY

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today tabled the Annual Report "Exports of Military Goods from Canada." In recent years, Canada has increased the level of transparency applied to activities in this area. The Canadian government has acted upon requests from industry, non-governmental organizations and international security experts to supply even more information than in the past.

"Since it was first published, Canada's Annual Report has set the standard in the world for completeness and detail," said Mr. Axworthy. "Few other countries prepare such reports on the export of military goods, fewer still make them publicly available, and none are as detailed and specific as Canada's."

"For the first time this year, we have included descriptions of the actual goods included in the categories reported, and have classified all transfers as to whether they are weapons, support systems or parts," remarked Mr. Axworthy. "We will be very interested to know if this makes it easier to understand what is actually being transferred, within, of course, the bounds of respecting the commercial confidentiality of the companies involved."

In June 1996, Minister Axworthy instructed that the process for reviewing export permit applications involve a more rigorous analysis of security issues and threats of hostilities, a strict interpretation of human rights criteria, and stricter controls of firearms.

"I have given close attention to firearms exports," said Mr. Axworthy. "We take great care to ensure that none of the firearms legally exported from Canada end up in a conflict or criminal situation. Canada is ready to play an important role in curbing illicit trafficking in small arms."

Canada accounts for less than 1 percent of the military goods traded in the world, but individual Canadian firms have established an international reputation for excellence in aerospace, including in the repair and overhaul of military aircraft, and in such fields as simulators, radar and protective clothing. As a member of NATO and other mutual security arrangements, Canada also has an obligation to produce certain military equipment for the shared needs of these allies. Exports to these countries make up the great majority of exports of Canadian military goods covered in this Annual Report.

Copies of the report are available from the InfoCentre of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade at 1-800-267-8376.

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December 11, 1997

No. 206

MINISTER AXWORTHY TO ATTEND NATO AND OSCE MEETINGS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy announced today that he will attend NATO meetings in Brussels on December 16 to 17, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Copenhagen December 18 to 19.

While in Brussels, Mr. Axworthy will participate in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council, the ceremony marking the Signing of Protocols of Accession for the Enlargement of the Alliance, the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, the NATO-Ukraine Commission and the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council, which he will co-chair. The OSCE meeting will review the work of the Organization and its future direction.

"We are pleased to be signing the Protocols for the accession of Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic as new members in NATO, and we look forward to welcoming them as full members in 1999," said Mr. Axworthy. "Our meetings with Russia and Ukraine, and with other partners, demonstrate the key role that NATO continues to play in building transatlantic security."

"Canada places great importance on OSCE commitments, the political character of which links them directly to peace and stability in our region," added Mr. Axworthy. "Just as we must work to strengthen the OSCE, so its members must continue to make progress on human rights, good governance and economic reform.

In Brussels, at the North Atlantic Council, Mr. Axworthy will address the future of the Stabilization Force (SFOR) in Bosnia's peace process, as well as the continuing internal and external adaptation of the Alliance. In addition to attending the Plenary Meeting of the OSCE Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Copenhagen, the Minister will deliver an address on the challenges that the

Organization is facing in such regions as the Balkans, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

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December 11, 1997

No. 207

CANADA NAMES COMMISSIONER GENERAL AT LISBON EXPO '98

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Canadian Heritage Minister Sheila Copps today announced the appointment of the Honourable John Roberts as Commissioner General for Canada at Lisbon Expo '98. Mr. Roberts will serve as Canada's Commissioner General for the duration of the exposition.

Portugal will host Expo '98 from May 22 to September 30 under the theme "The Oceans: A Heritage for the Future." Participation in this exposition will allow Canada to increase public awareness about its approach to conservation and commitment to sustainable development through international co-operation, and to promote the country as a world leader in ocean-related research, technology and services.

John Roberts began his public service career as a Foreign Service Officer with the Department of External Affairs, and was posted to the United Nations and to Paris. He is a former parliamentarian who has held a number of ministerial portfolios, including Science and Technology, and Environment.

Mr. Roberts has lectured widely at universities throughout North America and, most recently, was a Visiting Lecturer on Environmental Management at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario. He is also the author of articles on politics, political theory and environmental issues. He is a past director of the Canadian Environmental Law Research Foundation and the Oceanic Society of the United States.

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

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December 11, 1997

No. 208

MINISTER MARCHI WELCOMES PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT ON INVESTMENT

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today welcomed the report by the Sub-Committee on International Trade, Trade Disputes and Investment on the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI). The Sub-Committee, part of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade, tabled its report in the House of Commons this morning.

"I welcome the Sub-Committee's report and the constructive recommendations it contains," said the Minister. "Open consultations like this provide the Government with valuable advice. That's why I asked the Sub-Committee to study this issue. I am pleased with the main recommendation that Canada continue its active participation in negotiations of the MAI. Creating fair and transparent international investment rules will enhance Canada's ability to create jobs, foster continued economic growth, and provide enhanced security for our expanding investments abroad."

The Sub-Committee held hearings in November. The purpose of the hearings was to widen consultations among Canadians before the final round of negotiations on the MAI begins in January 1998. The MAI is currently being negotiated among 29 countries under the auspices of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The Sub-Committee invited briefs and heard testimony from Canadians and associations from across the country. The Sub-Committee includes Members of Parliament from all federal political parties.

Minister Marchi also noted: "I am committed to studying this report and its recommendations carefully. In this regard, I want to reaffirm that this Government will only sign an MAI that



serves Canada's best interests, and that is consistent with Canadian values."

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December 12, 1997

No. 209

CANADA WELCOMES WTO FINANCIAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

Finance Minister Paul Martin and International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today welcomed the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement on financial services.

The agreement, reached today in Geneva, will strengthen international trade rules in financial services. It will be a broad, permanent agreement based on the Most Favoured Nation principle, prohibiting discrimination among foreign providers of financial services such as banks and insurance companies. It includes significant market-opening commitments from a number of key countries. This agreement covers 70 countries and over 95 per cent of the global financial services market.

"This is an important agreement for Canada," said Minister Martin. "It will provide Canadian financial services suppliers with greater certainty with respect to their investments. As well, Canadian companies will benefit from enhanced access to markets abroad, creating new export and job creation opportunities. The agreement will also add increased stability and strength to financial sector regimes worldwide."

"This agreement is a key step for the global trading system," said Minister Marchi. "It brings financial services under the WTO's rules-based system on a permanent basis. Canadian companies will benefit from the same access and rules in other markets as their foreign competitors."

The ministers added that the agreement will provide a solid basis for pursuing additional access to foreign markets in the next round of services negotiations, which will begin by 2000.

This permanent agreement will replace an interim agreement that was reached in 1995. Governments will have until January 31, 1999, to ratify this agreement, which is scheduled to come into effect on March 1, 1999.

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

Backgrounder

In 1995, members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) adopted an interim agreement on trade in financial services, under the framework of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). At that time, it was also decided that negotiations on a permanent agreement would take place in 1997. Such negotiations commenced in April of this year.

The financial services sector is vital to the Canadian economy. Canadian financial institutions are highly competitive internationally and have significant export interests in North America, Europe, Asia and Latin America. The financial services sector contributes over 5 percent of Canada's GDP and directly employs more than 500 000 people. Improved business opportunities resulting from the GATS negotiations will lead to new business and job opportunities in Canada.

As a result of these negotiations, 70 countries have tabled offers providing access to their financial services markets. As well, there are now permanent multilateral rules governing trade and investment in financial services. Canadian businesses will have more transparency and certainty regarding access to other markets. The successful conclusion of these negotiations will help to facilitate international trade in other sectors as well.

Canada played an active role in the negotiations, and made an important contribution by tabling an improved offer that commits Canada to:

- maintaining its existing open financial services regime;
- including in its schedule the ability for foreign banks to establish in Canada through branch offices, after implementation of the new bank branching regime; and
- removing, once legislation is passed, the requirement for foreign bank subsidiaries operating in Canada and originating from a non-NAFTA country to seek authorization before opening additional branch offices.

Other developed countries have also tabled improvements to their offers. For example, the United States has included the results of federal legislation liberalizing interstate banking and interstate branching. The European Union has removed some restrictions at the member state level. Japan's offer reflects recent amendments to its foreign exchange and foreign trade control law, and its insurance business law, as well as its bilateral insurance agreement with the United States.

Among some of the improvements in the offers of developing countries are:

 binding increased foreign investment limits in banking and/or insurance (e.g., Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, the Philippines);

binding an increased number of bank licences (e.g., India)

or bank branches (e.g., the Philippines);

removing some economic needs tests (e.g., Korea);

eliminating some monopolies (e.g., Brazil);

 removing discriminatory capital requirements (e.g., Indonesia); and

• liberalizing interest rates on deposits (e.g., Korea).

The achievement of a permanent agreement on financial services provides a base for future negotiations in this sector during the next round of comprehensive services negotiations, which are scheduled to begin before the year 2000.

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December 15, 1997

No. 210

CANADA AND EUROPEAN UNION SIGN AGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANE TRAPPING STANDARDS

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi announced that Canada and the European Union (EU) today signed the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards.

"This agreement is a significant achievement for Canada and the EU," said Mr. Marchi. "It is good for trade and ensures more humane treatment of animals that are trapped. The Agreement provides a clear framework that will allow the fur industry in both Canada and the EU to develop and maintain jobs. It is also the first document to specifically address international standards of animal welfare. I am particularly pleased that Aboriginal peoples in Canada participated in the discussions between Canada and the EU over the last several years and were able to see their concerns reflected and addressed in the process."

The Agreement establishes the stringent scientific basis by which standards will be applied to all trapping methods involving mechanical devices with respect to the capture of 19 species of wild mammals. These standards will apply regardless of the reasons for capture, whether for pest control, conservation, fur or food. Parties to the Agreement are obliged to prohibit trapping methods that do not comply with these standards within an established time frame of five to eight years.

The Agreement was signed today in Brussels by Jean-Pierre Juneau, Canada's Ambassador to the European Union; Ambassador Jean-Jacques Kasel of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, representing the Presidency of the Council of the European Union; and Hans-Friedrich Beseler, Director General for External Relations of the European Commission.

"Not only does this agreement benefit those who have an interest or who make their living in Canada's fur industry, it is also an

excellent example of how Canada and the EU can work together to find solutions to difficult issues," concluded Mr. Marchi.

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A backgrounder is attached. Additional background documents on the Agreement are available on request from the sources listed below.

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Neal Jotham Co-ordinator, Humane Trapping Program Canadian Wildlife Service Environment Canada (819) 997-0832

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

Backgrounder

CANADA-EUROPEAN UNION AGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANE TRAPPING STANDARDS

On December 15, 1997, the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards was signed in Brussels by Canada and the European Union (EU). Signature by the Russian Federation is expected in early 1998.

In May, Canada, the EU and the Russian Federation initialled the Agreement, and on July 22 the Agreement was approved by the EU General Affairs Council.

Economic Impact

Europe has been the main market for Canadian furs since the early 1600s. About three quarters of Canadian wild fur exports go to Europe. About one million animals are trapped annually in Canada. It is estimated that the entire fur industry adds about \$600 million to the Canadian economy annually.

Approximately 80 000 trappers in Canada, approximately 40 000 of them Aboriginal people, make widely varying amounts of income in this primarily seasonal activity of the late fall and winter months. At the same time, it is estimated that fur sales make up 30-60 percent of all income in northern Aboriginal communities. Some studies suggest that hunting and trapping for "country foods" may account for 80 percent of all food consumed in some communities.

Animal Welfare Concerns

Fur is a natural, renewable resource, whose carefully managed harvesting from wild fur-bearing animals successfully applies the principles of sustainable use as described in the World Conservation Strategy and the International Convention on Biodiversity. No fur-bearing species trapped in Canada is endangered or threatened. Trapping in Canada, as in other parts of the world, aims to achieve a variety of goals, including pest and disease control, protection of the economic infrastructure, such as dikes, and provision of food and clothing.

Canada's commitment to the principles of conservation and animal welfare has led to the replacement of inferior trapping techniques with traps proven to be more selective, safer or more humane. Trappers, who are also business people, recognize the need to use the most humane and efficient trapping methods as they produce the best quality and most valuable fur. All provinces and territories require trappers to have licences obtained by taking training courses. Since 1987, trappers

themselves, with the government, have funded the training of thousands of Aboriginal and northern trappers in the use of efficient, selective and humane techniques to meet provincial and territorial regulations. Canada's program for research and development of humane trapping systems, which has been recognized by the World Conservation Union, is the most extensive of its kind. Canadian governments and industry have spent over \$10 million on research in this field.

Scope of the Agreement

The Agreement is a model for the solution of other international issues where economic interests are intertwined with environmental concerns, a combination that will be very much in the fore of trade policy in the years ahead. Most important, signatories to the Agreement may not apply trade measures against one another.

The Agreement deals with this difficult issue through the definition of the specific acceptable effects of all traps on animals. In this it goes farther than the EU's simple ban on a kind of trap. This Agreement examines all traps for the capacity to lead to many types of self-inflicted and other injuries, and will prohibit those traps that cause such injuries. The Agreement permits the use of other types of traps and those jaw-type leghold traps that meet the standard. In addition to its effect in Canada, the Agreement will have an impact on trapping in the EU, where five million animals are trapped annually and where several hundred types of traps are used.

The Agreement is a major step forward in the development of more humane trapping practices and goes beyond EU Regulation 3254/91 in advancing animal welfare, by extending coverage to 19 species from 13. The Agreement provides basic definitions, elaborate and meaningful trap standards, species-specific trap certification, and guidelines for use, testing procedures, trapper training and coverage of all types of traps for listed species — provisions not found in any EU legislation.

Upon ratification, Canada has agreed to prohibit all jaw-type leghold traps on land for seven species, although they can still be used under water. Within 46 months of the EU ratification, Canada has also agreed to prohibit the use of conventional steel-jawed leghold traps on land for another five species. This will allow for modified (e.g. padded) jaw-type leghold traps to be used. Within eight years of the Agreement's entry into force, all signatories are to have completed trap testing and to have prohibited all those traps that do not meet the standard.

Implementation of the Agreement

Although details of how the Agreement will be implemented have yet to be finalized, intensive consultations between fur industry stakeholders are ongoing. Also, it should be noted that the federal government has held consultations with various Aboriginal groups regarding the implementation. With respect to coordination of the implementation of the Agreement, it is envisaged that the Fur Institute of Canada, an organization originally established by provincial and territorial wildlife ministers, will play a central role along with appropriate federal agencies.

As set out under the Agreement, fur shipments entering the EU effective December 1, 1997, must be accompanied by certificates of origin that certify that the furs and fur products originate in Canada. A certification system is now operational in Canada that will ensure continued market access to the EU for Canadian furs and fur products.

December 1997



December 17, 1997

No. 211

CANADA PROVIDES ASSISTANCE PACKAGE TO THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, the Minister for International Co-operation and Minister responsible for la Francophonie Diane Marleau, and the Solicitor General Andy Scott announced today that Canada will provide an extensive package of additional assistance to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). The announcement was made while Minister Axworthy attended a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) in Brussels.

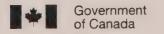
"The continuing work of the Tribunal is essential to international efforts to promote peace in the region," Minister Axworthy said. "Canada strongly urges all parties to co-operate with the Tribunal, and in this regard welcomes Croatia's role in the recent surrender of 10 indicted war criminals."

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will provide up to \$600 000 in additional support for the work of the Tribunal. This brings Canada's total voluntary contribution to the Tribunal to \$1.8 million.

The majority of this additional contribution will support the exhumation of mass graves. This work is essential to corroborate the testimony of witnesses, and to provide other evidence that will be used in the trial of suspected war criminals. The remainder of the contribution has been earmarked to help provide another ICTY courtroom. This facility is urgently needed to respond to the growing number of cases on the Tribunal's docket.

"Support for fundamental human rights underlies the Canadian government's reconstruction program in the former Yugoslavia," said Mrs. Marleau. "The additional funding will build on the progress that has been achieved to date."

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), through the Civilian Police Arrangement, plans to provide the Tribunal with up to five crime analysts to assist with the Tribunal's increased



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investigative workload in the Hague. This additional Canadian contribution is in response to a November appeal by ICTY's Chief Prosecutor for UN member states to provide expert personnel until June 30, 1998.

"The RCMP is pleased to be able to assist in the important work of the International Criminal Tribunal in bringing war criminals to justice," said Mr. Scott.

Canada is providing the Tribunal with a list of Canadians who are available for recruitment by the Tribunal, and who possess the qualifications and expertise most urgently needed by the Tribunal. These individuals include translators, investigators and criminal-justice experts.

Finally, in response to an approach by the Tribunal to several countries, Citizenship and Immigration Canada is negotiating an Understanding concerning the resettlement, when necessary, of some witnesses who testify before it.

Funding for these initiatives was provided for in the February 1997 federal budget, and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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A backgrounder is attached.

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Media Relations Office Canadian International Development Agency (819) 953-6534

Backgrounder

FOR THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

At the London Peace Conference in August 1992, Canada was one of the first countries to call on the international community to create an international tribunal to try those individuals responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the former Yugoslavia. Subsequently, the UN Committee of Experts was established to receive information from states relating to violations of humanitarian law.

Canada was the first country to make a substantial financial contribution (\$300 000) to the voluntary fund of the Experts Committee, and continued to take the lead in advocating establishment of a criminal tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Canada also pushed for the establishment of a permanent international court to try war crimes wherever they are committed, and hosted, in March 1993, an international experts meeting in Vancouver to give impetus to this project.

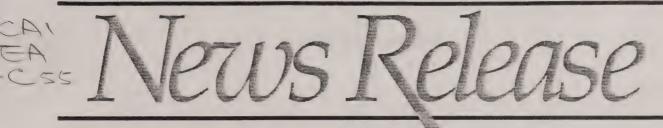
In May 1993, the United Nations Security Council authorized the creation of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Negotiations toward a permanent International Criminal Court are currently under way at the United Nations in New York.

Several eminent Canadians have been appointed to the International Criminal Tribunal in The Hague. Madame Justice Louise Arbour of the Ontario Court of Appeal took up her duties as Chief Prosecutor on October 1, 1996. Former Chief Justice of the Quebec Superior Court, Mr. Justice Jules Deschênes, sat as a member of the Appellate Chamber for the Tribunal. Commander (ret.) William Fenrick, one of the original members of the UN Committee of Experts on Crimes Committed in the Former Yugoslavia, is the Chief International Legal Adviser to the Prosecutor of the Tribunal. A number of other Canadians also work for the Tribunal in various capacities.

On October 6, 1997, 10 indicted persons surrendered to the Tribunal, doubling the number of persons in custody to 20. Two of the accused have been convicted. The arrival of the 10 indicted for trial has had an enormous, sudden impact on the Tribunal's workload, and has resulted in an appeal in November by Chief Prosecutor Arbour to UN member states for assistance. In December 1997, Canada responded with an extensive assistance package to support the continuing and vital work of the Tribunal.

Canada contributes to the financing of the War Crimes Tribunal through its assessed contribution to the United Nations budget. In addition, Canada has voluntarily contributed approximately

\$1.8 million, including this \$600 000 for the exhumation of mass graves and the building of the much-needed additional courtroom. Canada's earlier contributions helped the Tribunal to establish a process for reviewing individual cases, to ensure that arrests of suspected war criminals are consistent with international legal standards. Canada also helped to finance other mass grave exhumations, each of which costs about \$250 000.



December 17, 1997

No. 212

MARCHI ANNOUNCES NEW EDC CHAIR

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today announced the appointment of Mr. Patrick J. Lavelle as Chairman and Director of the Export Development Corporation (EDC).

Through his many years in business and government, Mr. Lavelle has acquired a thorough understanding of the needs of the business community and how the government can provide the tools for business to prosper. He has served as the Chair of the Business Development Bank of Canada since 1994.

As Canada's official export credit agency, EDC is a unique financial institution that strengthens the global competitiveness of Canadian exporters and investors in more than 200 countries by offering some of the most sophisticated trade finance skills available in Canada today. In 1997, EDC's business volume is expected to surpass \$27 billion — exceeding last year's record level of \$22 billion.

The appointment is effective January 1, 1998.

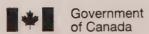
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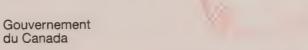
A biographical note is attached.

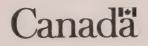
For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Biographical Note

As Chair of the Business Development Bank of Canada (formerly the Federal Business Development Bank) since September 1994, Patrick J. Lavelle has overseen the mandate change of the bank — a change that has made the organization more responsive to the knowledge-based community and to all small and medium-sized businesses throughout Canada.

As Chairman and Chief Executive Officer for the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business from 1991 to 1995, Mr. Lavelle oversaw the reorganization of the Council. He served as Vice-President, Corporate Development, at Magna International Inc. from 1988 to 1991, where he focussed his attention on international trade issues, particularly in the Pacific Rim. Prior to 1988, he served as Deputy Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology for the Province of Ontario. He was also the first Secretary of the Premier's Council as well as Advisor to the Planning and Priorities Board of Cabinet. Mr. Lavelle served for 10 years as President of the Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association of Canada and as Ontario's Agent General in Paris from 1980 to 1981.

Mr. Lavelle serves on a number of corporate boards in Canada and the United States and is a member of the Advisory Committee of the International MBA program at York University.

Mr. Lavelle was born in Toronto in 1939 and was educated at St. Michael's College in Toronto and at the University of Western Ontario in London. He is married and has two children.



December 17, 1997

No. 213

AXWORTHY ANNOUNCES YOUTH INTERNSHIPS FOR EUROPE

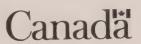
Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy has announced that a \$300 000 internship project has been approved that will send 20 young Canadians to Europe in the coming year. The announcement was made at a ministerial meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Brussels on December 16.

This project will be implemented by the Atlantic Council of Canada, a non-governmental, non-profit organization that provides a forum for the exchange of ideas relating to NATO, and to Canada's involvement in international political and security issues. The placements will be with a number of foreign government ministries, non-governmental organizations and international institutions in the following countries: Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

The interns will be graduates with a relevant background in international relations, political science, strategic studies, history, economics or international business.

"This project will enhance the public relations, management planning, organizational and co-ordination skills of the interns," Minister Axworthy said. "In return, their work in many of our partner countries will encourage and develop the co-operation that is vital in building European security."

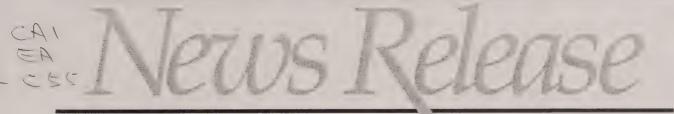
This project is part of the Department's Youth International Internship Program. Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 1997 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.



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December 18, 1997

No. 214

CANADA SIGNS OECD CONVENTION ON COMBATTING BRIBERY

Minister of Human Resources Development Pierre S. Pettigrew, on behalf of Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, has signed the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Convention on Combatting Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions in Paris. The Convention, signed December 17, will become legally binding for ratifying countries once it comes into force, which is expected to happen by the end of 1998.

"Canada has long been a supporter of international efforts to eliminate bribery," said Mr. Axworthy. "Canadian corporations neither want nor need to give bribes to maintain their competitive advantage, but find themselves at a disadvantage when they compete for international contracts against companies who indulge in bribes. This Convention makes it illegal to bribe government officials of other countries."

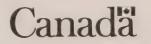
"I am pleased, indeed honoured, to have been asked to sign the Convention on behalf of Canada," said Mr. Pettigrew. "I know that Canadians and the Canadian business community stand to gain from signing this international treaty."

Under the Convention, members of the OECD will impose criminal sanctions, including fines and imprisonment, when a bribe is offered to foreign public officials in order to obtain or retain business or other improper advantage.

Negotiation of the OECD Convention began in July, following a decision by member states at the OECD annual ministerial meeting in May. At that meeting, the ministers agreed to negotiate the Convention by the end of 1997 and to ratify it by the end of 1998. They also agreed to introduce the requisite domestic legislation to implement the Convention in 1998. The negotiations concluded on November 21.

The 29-member OECD, which includes Canada, the United States, most European countries, Japan and South Korea, is the major economic policy forum for the world's most advanced





industrialized democracies. The OECD members develop compatible approaches on a wide range of economic, social and trade issues, including economic growth, employment, fiscal stability and the expansion of world trade.

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December 19, 1997

No. 215

EXHIBIT OF CHINESE MASTERPIECES FINAL EVENT OF CANADA'S YEAR OF ASIA PACIFIC

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced the last event of Canada's Year of Asia Pacific (CYAP), a special exhibition of China's finest modern scroll paintings, which will open on December 20 at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Hull.

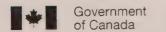
"This unparalleled exhibit of modern Chinese masterpieces is a fitting way to cap off a remarkable year," said Mr. Axworthy. "As Canada hosted its APEC partners at meetings throughout the year, Canadians from coast to coast took part in nearly 700 events to celebrate Canada's Year of Asia Pacific. This participation and the generous cultural contributions by Asia Pacific countries have exceeded all expectations, creating a dynamic legacy for the future."

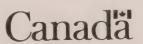
"Masterpieces of 20th Century Chinese Painting" was organized by the Canadian Foundation for the Preservation of Chinese Cultural and Historical Treasures, a charitable organization dedicated to the conservation of Chinese antiquities through the use of Canadian conservation technology. The CYAP cultural program also supported this initiative by providing \$40 000 in funding.

This collection, which is being shown for the first time outside China, features 58 scroll paintings by some of the most influential Chinese artists since 1900. The exhibit will be on display in Hull until February 22, 1998.

"It makes us proud to be able to do this for Canada," said Nelly Ng, voluntary chair of the Canadian Foundation for the Preservation of Chinese Cultural and Historical Treasures. "The significance of this exhibition lies not only in its artistic strengths, but also in that it promotes understanding through cultural endeavour," said Dr. Ng.

The national capital region is the final destination of a three-city exhibit tour, which included the Royal Ontario Museum in





Toronto (August 21 to October 13) and the Vancouver Art Gallery (November 21 to December 8). The Vancouver opening, which coincided with the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting, was attended by President Jiang Zemin of China, Mr. Axworthy, and China's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Qian Qichen. To date, an estimated 100 000 people have viewed these works in Canada.

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The Inerus Release

December 19, 1997

No. 216

CANADIAN CONTRIBUTION TO A PROGRAM TO MANAGE DEBT IN THE FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTH

Minister for International Co-operation and Minister Responsible for la Francophonie Diane Marleau today announced the signature of a memorandum of understanding authorizing the transfer of a debt management software program from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) to the Agency of la Francophonie.

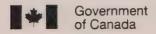
This memorandum was signed, in the presence of the Minister, by IDRC President Maureen O'Neil and Jean-Louis Roy, Secretary General, Agency of la Francophonie.

"Using this software, financial management officials in the countries of the South will be able to reduce from a number of weeks to just a few minutes the time required for various calculations," said Mrs. Marleau. "While the software will not solve the debt problems facing many countries, it will enable them to streamline the management of their public finances, which is an essential step in correcting situations and a prerequisite for making enlightened economic decisions."

This transfer of the French version of the debt management program should enable the Agency of la Francophonie to help the Francophone countries of the South, most of which face problems of indebtedness, which in turn is stifling their development efforts.

To achieve this, a Canadian contribution of \$300 000 was proposed as part of the Canadian program at last November's Summit in Hanoi. This sum will make it possible to complete three projects under way in Benin, Cameroon and Mali, the first countries of la Francophonie in which the IDRC installed its French software.

The theme of the Hanoi Francophonie Summit proposed by the Vietnamese authorities, oriented to economic and social development, reflected the preoccupations of member countries and the major objectives of their co-operation. The debt management



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Backgrounder

1997 MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE AWARD FOR TRADE SERVICE

Donald McLennan: 1997 winner of the Minister for International Trade Award for Trade Service for his initiative, creativity and leadership in the area of international business development (IBD). Mr. McLennan provided a comprehensive assessment of alternative vehicles for the delivery of IBD services. He also prepared the first report to Parliament on IBD achievements and was instrumental in the development of a Global Opportunities Team. This team involves the deployment of more Trade Commissioners in priority markets to capitalize on opportunities created by Team Canada missions and other special events.

Stewart Beck: Citation award winner for his outstanding leadership, vision and execution of trade strategy. He played an important role in facilitating partnerships for Canadian firms with Taiwanese companies.

The Atlantic Trade Management Committee (ATMC): Citation award to this seven-member committee for their dedicated work in the area of international business development. The ATMC, composed of representatives from federal and provincial governments, serves as a successful model of a trade promotion network.

Michael Martin and Mackenzie Clugston: Citation award winners for their exceptional work in expanding market access in Japan for imported housing and building products for the benefit of Canadian exporters.

John Lambert: Citation award winner for his superior work as an effective advocate for Canadian trade policy and business development priorities.





